



THE TIMES Tomorrow

So far it seems to have been the "peace women" who have attracted most of the attention in the growing debate over nuclear weapons and disarmament, but Lady Olga Maitland (below), Tory activist, gossip columnist and mother, is trying to change all that. She has formed a group called Women for Defence to promote the view that nuclear missiles are an essential bulwark of freedom. The Wednesday Page talks to both Lady Olga and the chairman of CND, Joan Ruddock, about a woman's place in the arms debate.



Spectrum visits Ilkley Moor to meet a band of dedicated amateur archaeologists whose discoveries could change our view of what life was like in the Bronze Age. In a Special Report, Robert Fisk looks at the future of Cyprus, the divided island where road signs point to places the traveller cannot reach and the telephone directory seems to have been produced in a world of make-believe.

'£1m raid' on security company

About £1m is believed to have been stolen yesterday when hooded, armed men burst into the headquarters of Security Express behind Liverpool Street station, London and tied up the staff. The raid was not discovered until last night when the staff escaped after six hours' captivity.

Ulster fury

The Labour leadership denounced two speeches at the Young Socialists' conference calling for the death of British troops in Ulster. The speakers had supported a resolution on solidarity with republicans, which was defeated.

Killing in error

The IRA said it shot and killed a man watching television at home in mistake for someone else and offered "deepest sympathy" to relatives.

Hammer attack

Mr Amir Khan, a Labour candidate for the Birmingham Sparkhill ward in next month's local elections has been attacked by two men with a hammer and knife.

Black leader dies

A black community leader was not dead in a Transvaal village by a white policeman who had earlier accused him of holding an illegal meeting.

Match riot

A match between Blackburn Rovers and Burnley turned into a riot in which 20 people were injured and 33 arrests were made.

Punjab deaths

Twenty-two people were killed and nearly 100 wounded when Indian riot police opened fire at 12 places across Punjab state to scatter militant Sikh demonstrators.

Funds crisis

The World Bank is seeking Britain's aid to help save the cash-starved International Development Association. The bank wants the UK to put pressure on America to pay its agreed contribution to the Third World aid fund.

Letters: On Police Bill, from Mr G. Bindman and others; arms race, from Professor M. J. Pentz and others; Ethiopia, from Dr K. B. Griffin, and Mr J. Bennett. Leading articles: Nuclear disarmament; Seamen's dispute; Local Government Audit Commission. Features, pages 8-10: Edward Heath asks: Where are the action men? ATimes Portrait of Jonathan Aitken; Second thoughts on the welfare state.

Spectrum: One in the i for a filmmaker. Fashion: A new angle on the Body, by Suzy Menkes. Obituary, page 12: Gloria Swanson.

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Guerrillas murder three whites in Matabeleland

From Stephen Taylor, Harare. A Senator of Zimbabwe's white opposition Republican Front party, his daughter and a young woman visitor from Britain were murdered by marauding guerrillas at the weekend during a barbecue at the Senator's farm in Matabeleland, a government spokesman said yesterday. Senator Paul Savage, aged 70, his daughter Colleen, aged 20, and an unidentified woman thought to be a friend of Miss Savage's from a British university, were shot down in cold blood by a band of about 20 dissidents, the spokesman said. Mrs Betty Savage, the Senator's wife, was badly wounded in the attack on his farm near Gwanda, about 75 miles south of Bulawayo. The dissidents, renegades of Mr Joshua Nkomo's former Zimra army, came to the farm on Sunday night and first chased away farm labourers before surrounding the homestead as the Savages and their guest were preparing a barbecue outside. The dissidents approached the group, ordered them to raise their hands and then opened fire with automatic rifles. After the killings the house was ransacked. It is understood that one of the dissidents was accidentally killed in the shooting, apparently by his comrades. He was buried by his fellows in a shallow grave near by. The British High Commission here said that the Foreign Office had been passed a name thought to be that of Miss Savage's friend, but that no identification had been made and her passport had not been found. "She was not registered with us as a visitor," a spokesman said. A source in the RF, the party represented by Senator Savage, said his daughter had been studying veterinary science in Britain and had recently returned to Zimbabwe for a holiday with a university friend. Senator Savage, a prominent cattle farmer in the Gwanda area, was nominated to the Senate by the party at independence. Mr Ian Smith, the RF leader, said in a telephone interview from his ranch near Shurugwi, in the Midlands, that the killings were "absolutely horrific". He said Senator Savage was one of his greatest friends and he felt "deeply depressed" by his death. The killings indicate a spread in the area affected by dissidents who have made white farmers in the province a principal target. At least 15 members of the farming community have been murdered in the latest wave of dissident violence which started in December. In the last such attack, less than three weeks ago, Mr Eric Stratford, his wife and their two grandchildren were executed at pistol point on the Stratford ranch near Nyamandhlovu. Like almost all other attacks on white farmers, that was in the ravaged region to the North of Bulawayo where Government security forces recently conducted a bloody purge of Nkomo supporters suspected of aiding the dissidents. A spokesman for the Commercial Farmers' Union yesterday expressed alarm at the spread of violence to the Gwanda area. Speaking from his London hotel, Mr Joshua Nkomo the Zanu leader expressed horror at the killings. He said it was premature to assert who the killers were. "It could be dissidents, or it could be someone else," he said, implying that the Government could be using agents provocateurs to justify the harsh tactics being used by the army in Matabeleland. "Whoever is responsible has nothing to do with me or with Zanu," said Mr Nkomo.

HMS Keren dispute

Seamen's leaders to talk peace

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor. Seamen's union leaders agreed last night to peace talks with the Blue Star shipping line that could end the Royal Navy takeover of HMS Keren, the Falklands troopship commandeered by naval ratings in a clandestine operation four days ago. Mr Sam McLuskie, assistant general secretary of the National Union of Seamen, is to lead fresh negotiations on wage rates for about sixty seamen due to take the ship to the South Atlantic under a management contract with Blue Star. The union's leaders meet at their headquarters in Clapham, south London, this morning to draw up plans for a worldwide strike in protest at the "seizure" of HMS Keren - formerly the cross-Channel ferry St Edmund - but it now seems possible that industrial action will be averted by a compromise over pay. Mr James Slater, the union's general secretary, said: "I am sure we can come to a satisfactory settlement if they are prepared to negotiate". The seamen's wrath is still largely directed at the Ministry of Defence over the naval operation at the end of night last Thursday to repossess HMS Keren at Wallsend after members of the civilian crew had been told to go on shore leave for Easter. It is now clear that the NUS will not obstruct the sailing of the Cunard Countess, due to take 550 relatives of the Falklands casualties from Montevideo, Uruguay, to Port Stanley today. The NUS says its battle is with the Ministry of Defence, not with the widows of the war dead, some of whom were merchant seamen. Today's talks with Blue Star, the company chartered by the Government to run HMS Keren as a troopship linking the Falklands with Ascension Island, will return to the union's claim for Channel ferry wages and conditions to be paid in the South Atlantic. If conceded, the NUS demand would increase rates from £160 per week in the conflict zone to £200 per week. Basic rates for Royal Navy ratings are £112 a week with extra allowances and Service chiefs fear a serious knock-on effect among the civilian crews of 27 ships on charter in the South Atlantic and the crews of naval vessels. The cue for fresh negotiations on pay for merchant seamen to crew HMS Keren came early yesterday when Mr Jerry Wiggins, Under-Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, said in a radio interview: "I simply want to get this ship properly crewed, with civilian managers running it in the normal way. I hope the NUS will sit down and agree to appropriate rates and crewing levels." This hint was taken up by Blue Star management, according to union sources, and contacts with the NUS preparatory to reopening negotiations were established. Leading article, page 11.

Gloria Swanson dies in her sleep at 84

New York (AP) - Gloria Swanson, star of the silent films who became the epitome of Hollywood's golden years, died yesterday in a New York hospital after a brief illness, she was 84. A spokesman for the hospital said she had died in her sleep. Miss Swanson, who began her career at the age of 15, was active professionally into the seventies. Her 1980 autobiography created a sensation when she discussed an extramarital love affair she said she had with Joseph Kennedy, the patriarch of the Kennedy family. "If I didn't write about it, someone else certainly would", she later explained. She began her career as a bathing beauty extra in comedies and soon soared to stardom. She left the screen in 1936 but came back in 1949 to star in Sunset Boulevard, the story of a demoted, aging film star. Among her six husbands was a French marquis. Hollywood writers called her "Glorious Gloria" and "Glamorous Gloria". She was born Gloria May Josephine Swanson in Chicago. Obituary, page 12.

Shergar call thought to be another hoax

Two telephone calls to Radio Telefís Eireann, in the Irish Republic, yesterday claimed that Shergar, the kidnapped stallion, would be released today. The calls, made by a man speaking with an English accent, who used a previously known code word, came after a weekend of rumour in Dublin that a £1.5m ransom had been paid in France. Police in the republic were treating the call sceptically, as another, apparently by the same man, was made on April Fool's Day. An extra guard has been put on the Aga Khan's Ballymany Stud at Newbridge, co Kildare.

Camden Lock soap opera gets new leading man

By David Hewson. Commercial television's real-life soap opera, the breakfast station TV-am, changed the role of two of its star presenters and brought in a new boss yesterday in the hope of reviving its flagging audience ratings. The long-awaited announcement at the company's Camden Lock headquarters had all the hallmarks of a good episode of Dallas. Clean-cut unknown sports reporter Nick Owen, 35, found himself thrust into the job of breakfast show presenter, and explained his promotion by proclaiming: "It's because I'm, so very ordinary really." New media supremo Greg Dyke, 35, who started adult life as a trainee manager with Marks & Spencer, opened his term of office as editor-in-chief with the declaration that the station's output had been wrong from day one back in February, by appealing to a certain section of a certain community in London. The new TV-am, which will not be unveiled until May, will be a more popular combination of "fun, entertainment and news", along the lines of London Weekend's bright and breezy Six O'Clock Show, which Mr Dyke has edited for the past two years. Part of this recipe will involve the transfer of David Frost and Robert Kee from the roles of presenters to reporters involved in special features. The future of the remaining members of the station's Famous Five team of presenters, Anna Ford, Angela Rippon and Michael Parkinson, and possible pay cuts, will now be a subject for discussion between them and Mr Dyke. Mr Jonathan Aitken, the Conservative MP for Thanet, East, whose family company owns the largest stake in the station, and who ousted Mr Peter Jay as chief executive three weeks ago, maintained yesterday that media interest in TV-am's continuing crises was out of proportion. "This company has suffered from a disease called over-exposure and over-hype by competing media organizations", Mr Aitken told a packed press conference called by the station. But in a message to staff Mr Aitken outlined some of the financial problems facing the company. These meant, he said, that freelance shifts and overtime payments would have to be curtailed, though redundancies would only be considered as a last resort. Mr Aitken said that reports that TV-am was losing £125,000 a week were inaccurate, but refused to supply the true figure. Mr Derek Stevenson, the company's sales director, said that advertising revenues were now running at about £800,000 a month, with no signs of rising in the immediate future. TV-am had forecast annual advertising revenue of £20m. The reorganization of the station will be gradual, starting next month. For most of April, the weekday presenters will be Angela Rippon and Mr Owen, who joined TV-am as sports presenter. The permanent deployment of the Famous Five presenters and other reporters will not be announced until just before the new look line-up goes on air. Mr Aitken told staff that the station had to go back to its own roots and recapture the spirit and sparkle of its original franchise application. "This will mean changes in the style, feel and presentation of the programme, together with an upgrading of our news and information service from all parts of Britain." "Since our research emphasizes that we attract an encouragingly high percentage of younger viewers, we must ensure that the programme has a contemporary identity, with a light humorous touch as well as an ability to illuminate the serious news issues of the day." Mr Aitken was emphatic about his own future which, he said, in Westminster and not as a permanent chief executive of the station. The company is expected to put forward the name of a permanent chief executive when it meets the Independent Broadcasting Authority on Wednesday. Mr Hilary Lawson, aged 29, moves from being programme editor to become deputy chief executive, and Mr Clive Jones, managing editor, has been appointed editor of TV-am's weekday programmes. A weekend editor will be appointed soon. Aitken portrait, page 10.



Role reshuffle: Nick Owen (left), breakfast show presenter; Hilary Lawson, deputy chief executive, and Greg Dyke, editor-in-chief, from London Weekend Television.

Relatives of the dead leave for Falklands

By Alan Hamilton. Five hundred and fifty relatives of those members of the British task force who died in the Falklands leave London today on a pilgrimage to the graves and battlefields of the South Atlantic. British Airways is providing a Boeing 747 and a Lockheed TriStar free of charge to fly the party to Montevideo in Uruguay. At the end of the 15-hour flight they will transfer to the cruise liner Cunard Countess, chartered by the Ministry of Defence for the four-day voyage to the Falklands. The operation appears to have overcome two potential obstacles. First, suggestions that the Uruguayan authorities might prevent the party landing at their capital have been discounted now that Britain has agreed to a visit by relatives of the Argentine dead to their own Falklands war graves. Second, Mr James Slater, general secretary of the National Union of Seamen, said yesterday that he expected the Cunard Countess to be exempted from any shipping strike over the seizure of HMS Keren by the Royal Navy from its firing-out yard on the Tyne. Yesterday, the relatives gathered in Cunard's hotel at Hammersmith, west London, to meet and be briefed on their journey. Selfridges, the London store, has supplied free toys and sweets for the 100 children in the party. The relatives are due to arrive in the Falklands on Saturday, and they will be accommodated on board Cunard Countess throughout their four-day visit. As soon as they arrive they will be taken on a private visit to the military cemetery overlooking San Carlos Water, from which reporters and camera crews are being excluded for the day. On Sunday they will return to the cemetery for a public service and on Monday the Cunard Countess will sail to the place where HMS Sheffield was attacked and sunk. About 300 relatives of Argentine troops dead are expected to set out in a chartered ship about April 16 to make their own pilgrimage. Three Argentines have arrived in London hoping to glean some information from authorities here after fruitless inquiries to their own Government about their sons' whereabouts. The three, led by Señor Isaias Gimenez and including the uncle of Osvaldo Ardiles, the Tottenham Hotspur player, represent the recently formed Commission of Parents of Combatants Missing in the Malvinas and the families of more than 500 missing relatives. Señor Gimenez says that the Argentine Government has not, despite repeated requests, approached either the British authorities or the Red Cross for information to make contact here with the Ministry of Defence, church officials, and MPs.

Successful lift-off for Challenger

From Christopher Thomas, New York. After a faultless five-day countdown, America's newest space shuttle, Challenger, blasted off on its maiden flight yesterday cheered on by hundreds of thousands of onlookers at Cape Canaveral, Florida. Strong winds high in the atmosphere subsided sufficiently to allow the launch, but it was a close thing. 12 hours earlier and the mission would have had to be aborted. The three main engines exploded into life, exactly on time at 7.30 pm EST and within 30 seconds the craft was speeding into the atmosphere at 600 miles per hour. The weather was perfect and for several minutes the craft could be seen from the ground by the naked eye. The main task of the five-day mission is to deploy the first of three sophisticated communications satellites that for the next 20 years will keep America in touch with its orbiting satellites. They will handle a phenomenal amount of data compared with the volume of material that tracking stations around the world can currently cope with. Once the satellites are fully operational most of the stations will close. The satellite will be released 175 miles above Earth as rockets will boost it to a position 22,300 miles above the Equator over Brazil. The second of the satellites to be launched in August readiness for the proposed deployment of the orbiting Landsat satellite, the experimental space laboratory due to fly on the ninth shuttle flight the Aartman. The other main event of the mission is a "spacewalk" scheduled for Thursday, the first by American astronauts 10 years.



Diary. Horigome will perform the Mendelssohn concerto. Miss Horigome was the acclaimed prize-winner at the Queen Elisabeth of the Belgians International Competition in Brussels in 1980. Her British debut with the Orchestra in the Barbican last month drew the following comment - "... a young virtuoso of inimitable technical ability, immaculate musicianship... (D. Tel.)". Both concerts will be conducted by André Previn, our Conductor Emeritus, whom we are delighted to welcome back. Sunday 10 April 7.30 DVOŘAK Slavonic Dances Op. 72, Nos. 1, 2, 5 GOLDMARK Violin Concerto in A Minor DEBUSSY Nocturnes DEBUSSY La Mer Itzhak Perlman, Violin André Previn, Conductor 28.00 £7.00 £5.50 £4.50 £3.50 £2.40 Sponsored by Peter Shymanskyj Thursday 14 April 8.00 MENDELSSOHN Violin Concerto in E minor PROKOFIEV Excerpts from Cinderella Yuzuko Horigome, Violin André Previn, Conductor £7.00 £6.50 £5.50 £4.50 £3.50 £2.20 In association with British Airways R.F.E. Box Office 01-928 3191 C.C. bookings 01-928 6544



André Previn, Yuzuko Horigome, Itzhak Perlman

دكان من الأهل

# Politicians well on way to controlling school curriculum, union is told

From Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent, St Helier

Politicians are well on the way to controlling what is taught in schools as a result of the Government's actions, Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said yesterday.

In a 75-minute address to the union's conference in St Helier, Jersey, he said that what was a dangerous development; it contradicted the British tradition, which was to leave the curriculum to the teachers.

"I wonder how much [Dr] Rhodes Boyson, who has been going to almost hysterical lengths in misrepresenting what local authorities and schools have been doing to encourage the introduction of peace studies into the curriculum, appreciates that he and his chiefs are themselves paving the way for a time when a government of a different complexion from their own will be presented with the means whereby innovations of the

kind they so vigorously condemn will be introduced by a government throughout the country."

Mr Jarvis said that politicians with extreme views of a different political hue might follow present ministers.

"When that happens Sir Keith Joseph and [Dr] Rhodes Boyson and their party will come to regret the day they were no longer prepared to entrust responsibility for curriculum matters to the teaching profession and the local education authority."

Mr Jarvis's examples of the ways in which ministers were moving towards central control of the curriculum were the "wreckage of the Schools Council, the education secretary's plan to regulate the teacher training curriculum, and his proposal for a specific grant for education."

"If the Secretary of State for Education was backed by the Secretary of State for the

Environment, with his powers and sanctions against local authorities the like of which had not been seen before", and if he introduces devices like a specific grant mechanism whereby he takes back from local education authorities money already allocated to them in order to give more to those who will do things he wants done, you begin to see just how far we are on the road to the day when Whitehall will control the schools curriculum."

Mr Jarvis also was unhappy about Sir Keith's rejection of proposals for a physics examination to replace the present O-level and CSE ones. The examination boards want physics to be put in its social and economic context, but Sir Keith has vetoed that.

Mr Jarvis said he agreed with a leading article in *The Times Educational Supplement* which said that it must be wrong for a secretary of state or any other politician to decide this issue.

# Unilateralist teachers defeated

Supporters of unilateral nuclear disarmament were heavily defeated at the National Union of Teachers' conference in Jersey yesterday when crucial parts of their motion were ruled out of order.

The resolution on nuclear disarmament to be debated today is now a watered down version and in no sense unilateralist.

After yesterday's vote the union will not even be discussing the question of cancelling the cruise and Trident missile agreements, the removal of all nuclear bases and weapons from British soil, the founding of a nuclear-free zone in Europe, and support for the World Disarmament Campaign.

Instead it will discuss a

motion condemning increased spending on arms and "recognizing" that such resources should be spent on resolving social and economic issues.

That means that the conference has reversed the position it reached last year when the president's ruling that a unilateralist motion was out of order was overturned. The union then passed a resolution that strongly supported unilateral nuclear disarmament.

It was not implemented, however, because counsel's advice found that the motion broke the union's rules against taking it into the political arena.

Yesterday, the conference decided by 125,908 votes to 101,062 to support the president's ruling that the endorse-

ment of the TUC's peace and disarmament policy was out of order.

Most heat was generated during yesterday's debates, however, over an article in the *Daily Express* about homosexual teachers. Mr Gordon Green, of the union's executive, said a new law had been reached in journalism.

The question arose because of Jersey's law outlawing all male homosexual acts. Homosexual teachers were angry that the conference was being held in the island.

● The Cooperative Party at its annual conference at Llandudno yesterday voted for unilateral nuclear disarmament (see *Llandudno Correspondent* writes).

Leading article, page 11

# Tory education report Standards 'prizes' proposed

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The introduction of the Conservative competitive ethic into the education system, with schools competing among themselves for awards for improvements in standards, is proposed by the party's education policy group in its report on proposals for the Tory election manifesto.

The confidential late draft of the report, which has now been completed, puts forward the idea of a Queen's award to schools. It states: "Something akin to the Queen's award for industry could be offered to those schools which, in the opinion of an independent panel of judges, have done most to improve their standards over the past 12 months."

It proposes that the award be given nationally by the secretary of state, or on a county basis.

In a section on examinations it says that the retention of O levels is essential. It then makes what is certain to be a controversial proposal for the use of graded tests at a national level to assess the performance of pupils throughout their school careers.

The tests would be included in a personal file to be available to all school leavers and their potential employers. The document would include the pupil's attendance record "and a profile written by the pupil to indicate his or her attitudes and motivation when seeking employment."

On the curriculum the report emphasized the link between education and the creation of wealth. "It was generally agreed that the education system had to some extent neglected the importance of the creation of

wealth as the foundation of all social progress."

Courses on the industrial and commercial substructure could "usefully replace" those on educational sociology, on which much time is spent in teacher training establishments, it says.

The group also gave more attention to the need to give to religious education, subject to the right of withdrawal for children whose parents express conscientious objections to their participation.

It mentions a feeling that neglect of religious education often went along with lack of attention to moral education and the inculcation of proper standards of speech, personal appearance and behaviour, as well as duties owed by the individual to the community.

In that respect, it says, the attitude of a minority of teachers left much to be desired.

The policy group, in a section proposing more demanding training courses for teachers, recommends the creation of a general teaching council, with the right to prescribe enforceable standards of training and conduct. It says that union objections to such a council should not be allowed to prevail, particularly as it would not include negotiations on conditions of employment and remuneration.

Such a body would be ultimately composed of teachers directly elected on a regional basis, not by the trade unions. As an interim measure the secretary of state should nominate some of the members while the machinery and policy were being shaped.

There is concern in the report

about evidence of serious disciplinary problems in schools. It says that attempts are being made on ideological grounds to weaken the idea that the teacher is *in loco parentis*, on which all disciplines rest.

Although the approach to discipline is a matter for individual schools, local authorities should be prepared to intervene. Gross bullying should be tackled instantly and with the full backing of the authorities and the law.

Special treatment for the children of ethnic minorities which would set them apart from their fellow citizens is rejected in the report. Teaching should always be in English, but where special linguistic help is essential that should be given only on the ground of individual need. Where parents so desire opportunities should be given for children to retain contact with the cultures of their own communities.

Setting out the principles which underlay its studies, the group says that the main feature of the Conservative approach to education is a proper respect for the diversity of needs among children, whatever their ability and degree of maturity, and giving weight to the requirements of all groups, from the top 2 per cent who are very gifted to the much larger group who leave full-time education with no formal qualifications.

It says, however, that the right of parents to avail themselves of independent education is an inalienable one, and in accordance with the international conventions on human rights to which Britain is a party.

# Williams challenges dole total

Mrs Shirley Williams, president of the SDP, yesterday accused the Conservatives of wiping 500,000 unemployed people off the unemployment queue with a stroke of a pen. She said that the men, women and school-leavers, who did not have to register because of a change in procedures, were still out of work, although the unemployment figures no longer included them.

"Juggling with statistics is the simplest single way of dealing with unemployment," she told an SDP Alliance rally in Teignmouth yesterday. She gave warning that the Conservatives' manifesto would force another 550,000 people on to the dole in the next two years.

She walked along the promenade before sharing an Alliance cocktail with Mr John Alderson, the Liberal Alliance's prospective parliamentary candidate in Teignbridge. The former Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall told the rally that crime figures had never been so high. And he dismissed the Conservatives' claim that they were the only party for law and order.

# Agency lost £2m investment in company

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

The Welsh Development Agency invested £2m in a loss-making South Wales company in 1978 without investigating production yields, cost or market prices, a Commons committee has disclosed.

P. Leiner and Sons Ltd, a long-established group manufacturing gelatin at Treforest, Pontypridd, went into receivership one year later, owing the agency a further £1.4m for factory rents and services.

In a special report to Parliament the Commons Select Committee of Public Accounts has now agreed to publish closed session evidence, taken nearly three years ago, on the agency's investment.

It had reported in 1980 that the £2m investment had been tied to specific warranties given by Leiner directors and that because the agency was taking legal action against directors for alleged breach of those warranties, the evidence would be withheld from the Commons.

The evidence has been released at the request of the defendants in the legal action, which is expected to be heard before the end of the year.

A report from Sir Douglas Henley, who was Comptroller and Auditor General at the

time, says that the initial decision to invest was taken in December, 1978, on the basis of an appraisal report and an overall summary by Mr Jack Loveland, the executive director of the agency's industry and investment department.

"This summary pointed out shortcomings in the group's managerial capability and the existence of fierce competition. It advised that if the agency did not invest, the company was likely to be taken over and closed down."

"It concluded, however, that the company's future was well within commercial risk and strongly recommended accept-



Easter fare: The Broughton Marching Brass and Colour Guard from Broughton Astley, Leicestershire, showing their paces at the London International Band and Display Competition in the White City Stadium, London, yesterday. More than 1,000 young musicians competed in various band displays. (Photograph: Bill Warhurst)

# 'Motiveless' killing in Ulster Inquiry offer brings hope to Ford

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Detectives in Northern Ireland were baffled yesterday by the motive for the murder of a middle-aged man who was shot by two gunmen as he watched television at home.

Mr James McCormick, aged 45, was hit in the chest and stomach by at least 12 bullets, fired from two handguns, when the men burst into his house on the "loyalist" Killooley housing estate in Bangor, Co Down, late on Sunday night. His wife, Margaret, also in her forties, was in a satisfactory condition in hospital after being shot in the leg when she opened the door to the men.

The dead man, who has a daughter, aged 19, and a married son, aged 21, had no connections with security forces and was not known to have links with loyalist paramilitary groups. It is thought that the shooting was purely sectarian, that or a case of mistaken identity.

Shop stewards at Ford's Merseyside, will be given an opportunity this morning to call the four-week stoppage that has cost an estimated £80m in lost production.

Mr Ronald Todd, executive officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union, is to report on a draft peace formula reached after talks lasting 10 hours with the company under the auspices of the independent Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas).

Last night, Mr Todd calculated that it was a "fifty-fifty bet" that the Halewood shop-floor officials would accept the company's offer of an independent three-man committee of inquiry to look into the case of Mr Paul Kelly, an assembly line worker dismissed for alleged

vandalism of a car part worth £6p.

Ford's management is still refusing to reinstate Mr Kelly before the inquiry's findings are known, although he has been promised a cash sum equivalent to basic pay lost since he was dismissed. The 5,000 Halewood strikers have up to now insisted that they will not go back until he is reinstated.

But a decision will still have to go to a mass meeting of the men, which could not be held before tomorrow.

In the other big dispute, 5,000 workers on the Austin Maestro production line at BL's Cowley works will decide tomorrow whether to accept a company formula for ending their week-old walkout.

BL managers yesterday sent a

letter to all the strikers, outlining proposals to phase out the twice-daily, three-minute washing time allowed to assembly line workers in return for the prospect of higher bonus earnings as output of the best-selling Maestro model increases.

The prospects for peace were not noticeably improved by BL's tough line, reaffirmed yesterday by a company spokesman who said: "We are not offering money or increased bonuses as a consequence of the elimination of the few minutes' cleaning-up time. Our position is quite firm and quite clear - if Cowley is to improve its efficiency then these minutes have to be removed."

Austin-Rover says that the dispute has cost more than £25m in lost production so far.

# US bid to block steel link

A Congressman from the powerful United States House Foreign Affairs Committee has assured Scottish steel union leaders that he will work to block a proposal to link British Steel's Ravenscraig plant, near Motherwell, and an American steel plant, Mr Peter Kostmayer told union leaders at the Iron and Steel Confederation meeting in Glasgow yesterday. "Both the British Steel Corporation and the United States Steel Corporation are using blackmail and threats. But I don't think we should be intimidated. I will tell Mr MacGregor that if he proceeds with this deal, Congress will make it illegal."

Mr Kostmayer is on a Congressional mission to investigate proposals by British Steel to invest £100m in the United States States Fairless plant in Pennsylvania. His committee is considering legislation against foreign steel imports including heavy taxes.

Mr Kostmayer, whose constituency includes the Fairless plant, told the steel union leaders, including Mr Clive Lewis, the Scottish organizer for ISTE, Mr Thomas Brennan, the Ravenscraig Shop Stewards' convenor, that there was vehement opposition in the United States to the BSC proposals.

He described Mr MacGregor's plan as "subsidized imports" and said there was hostility to such manoeuvring, both in the American union movement and within Congress.

● A strike by 3,000 steelworkers in the Rotherham area over redundancies at a local British Steel Corporation works is expected to spread today to all BSC's South Yorkshire plants (the Press Association reports).

# Reporter ordered out by Young Socialists

Young Socialists expelled a *Daily Mail* reporter from their annual conference at Bridlington, Humberside, yesterday.

About one thousand members of Labour's youth section chanted "Out, out, out" as Mr Bryan Carter, an industrial reporter was escorted to the door by Mr Laurence Coates, a member of the Labour Party NEC.

Mr Carter was expelled for refusing to give assurances on how he would write his report of the Northern Ireland debate.

After stormy behind-the-scenes negotiations failed, Mr Kevin Ramage, chairman of the Young Socialists, told the conference that Mr Carter "intended to highlight one completely misrepresentative speech in support of the IRA

rather than two speeches from delegates calling for support for IRA terrorists."

Afterwards Mr Carter said: "They cannot gag the press. I will give no assurances of what will appear in my stories."

The speeches in question were made by Mr Richard Emmett, from Accrington, Lancashire, and Mr Neil James.

Mr Emmett said: "Every bullet in a British soldier is another nail in the coffin of British imperialism."

Mr James, called for "the death of British troops".

But the resolution calling for solidarity with the battle of Irish republicans was overwhelmingly defeated and a resolution that terrorist groups offered no solution was passed.

"He is prepared to give no assurances that the overwhelming decision of the conference in favour of working class unity in Ireland and opposition to terrorism will be given prominence. In this situation we are appealing to the conference to resolve to withdraw his press facilities."

The leadership of the Young Socialists was clearly embar-

# Plea for small businesses

Small businesses should be allocated spaces in shopping precincts by law, Mr Don Cosling, president of the National Hairdressers' Federation, told members at the annual meeting in Weston-super-Mare yesterday.

"Today's high street is now increasingly occupied by banks, building societies, supermarkets and big department stores", he said.

# Show protest

Thirteen women peace protesters from Greenham Common staged a sit-down by the Navy's stand at the Ideal Home exhibition in London yesterday. The women, who sang protest songs, were not moved on and ended the demonstration peacefully.

# Death at tip

A man aged 40 was killed yesterday when a six-foot hole he had dug during a hunt for old bottles on waste ground, a former tip, at Bradford, West Yorkshire, collapsed on him.

# CORRECTION

A headline on March 30 suggested that Mr Anthony Steen MP, had "abandoned" Liverpool. That is not so. Although Mr Steen is on the short list for the Devon seat of South Hams, he is also being considered for the new Liverpool seat of Mossley Hill.

# Science Report A hearing aid to drum out tinnitus

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

Tinnitus, hearing sounds within the ear, is a serious medical problem causing millions of people discomfort and even severe pain, according to a report by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in the United States.

The NAS echoes recent British studies which indicate that up to 15 per cent of adults sometimes hear noises in their head for no apparent reason.

Occasional pops and clicks, intermittent buzzes and roars, and continuous clear tones have all been reported. And for perhaps one person in a hundred tinnitus is a severe and often debilitating agony.

Tinnitus is not a single disease but a symptom common to many disorders within the auditory system and elsewhere in the body.

"Over the years a truly staggering number of proposals have been made to explain tinnitus," the American report says, and unfortunately "there is little evidence to support any of them." This ignorance makes treatment difficult.

Although tinnitus can be occasionally traced to something vibrating within the head, for example a clicking jaw, defective blood vessel or contracting muscle, there is usually no detectable acoustical source.

A blow to the head, long-term exposure to intense external noise and heavy doses of certain drugs (including aspirin) can all induce tinnitus.

Because the underlying causes are unknown, a "cure" for tinnitus is normally impossible. Several drugs can alleviate the symptoms, including the local anaesthetic lidocaine. But many sufferers receive more effective relief by masking the noise with external sounds.

Relief can come from the background buzz generated by a radio that is not tuned to any particular station, or even from the traffic sounds heard in an office near a busy street.

A more systematic approach is to wear a "tinnitus instrument", an adjustable sound generator which fits into a hearing aid chassis.

Ten thousand sufferers in the US wear masking instruments which give most some relief. The instruments' long-term effects are unknown (they may generate enough noise to damage the wearer's hearing). But the NAS panel still believes that masking "must now be regarded as the treatment of first choice."

"For many people tinnitus is a severe, debilitating affliction, and it could easily be argued that relief from this affliction is, in many cases, worth the risk, or even the inevitability, of some hearing loss."

The report, which was commissioned by the US Government, suggests more effective new treatment will come from the recent surge of medical interest in tinnitus after years of neglect.

Source: *National Academy of Sciences News Report*, (Vol 33, No 1 1983).

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### Arrest over poisoned party punch

Detectives have arrested a youth after a party at which punch was laced with poison, killing another teenager and making five ill.

Gareth Symonds, aged 17, unemployed, died at the weekend, four days after the party at a girl's flat in North-on-Tees, Cleveland. At first, he thought he had a hangover, but two days later his family called a doctor to their home in Countisbury Avenue, Norton. He died later in hospital.

The others complained of sickness and dizziness, but did not need hospital treatment.

Det Chief Inspector John Turner, head of Stockton-on-Tees CID, said yesterday: "A 17-year-old youth has been arrested, and released on provisional bail. Some poisonous substance was poured into the punch drunk at the party. We are having samples analysed."

### Bishop marries divorcee

The Episcopal Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, the Right Rev Frederick Darwent, yesterday married Mrs Roma Fraser, a divorcee, of Osborne Place, Aberdeen.

The bishop, a widower, strongly opposed his church's ruling last year that divorcees should now be allowed to marry in church. He and Mrs Fraser were married in his cathedral of St Andrew's, Aberdeen.

### Six escape from blaze

Six people escaped from a blazing house in the grounds of Balderion psychiatric hospital, near Newark, Nottinghamshire, yesterday, by throwing a mattress on to the lawn below and jumping from a bedroom window.

Mrs Patricia Crawford, a sister at the hospital, her two teenage children and two others were unhurt, but Miss Maria Astell, aged 16, injured her back.

### Clean-up offer on holidays

St Tropez Holidays, a Coventry travel company, is offering nine-day holidays by coach on the French Riviera for £69 if people are prepared to clean caravans at the end.

Holidaymakers have to undertake to clean the caravans they occupy and up to three others on a site near St Tropez. A member of the company said yesterday: "We are confident that British people will do the cleaning properly."

### Bodies found in forest

Two partly decomposed bodies were found in Salcey Forest, near Stoke Goldington, Buckinghamshire, yesterday. They were examined by Det Superintendent Kenneth Dicox of Thames Valley Police and Dr Peter Andrews, a Home Office pathologist.

It is believed that the bodies had been there only a few weeks.

### Boy dies after driveway crash

Daniel Clarke, aged three, of Truswell Road, Crookes, Sheffield, died in hospital yesterday from internal injuries after an accident involving his father's vehicle outside their home.

Mr Tony Clarke was reversing the vehicle down the driveway when the boy was playing.

### Patient named

A man aged 38 who had a heart transplant operation at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, on Sunday was identified yesterday as Mr Lawrence John Grimley, a washing machine engineer of He Street, Southport. His condition was said to be satisfactory.

### Life after death

Life after death is to be studied in a postgraduate course starting at St David's University College, Lampeter, west Wales, in October. The course will examine the experiences of those resuscitated from near death.

## Five climbers rescued by helicopter from Ben Nevis

By a Staff Reporter

Five climbers trapped by bad weather on a ledge two thousand feet up Ben Nevis were rescued by helicopter yesterday unharmed after their SOS message, flashed by torch, was seen by a camper.

The five were in two groups, one of three men and the other of a man and a girl, when they met up near the summit of the mountain on Sunday. They decided to come down the mountain together as the weather deteriorated, with snow falls which cut visibility almost to nil.

The climbers, all in their early 20s, reached a ledge near Surgeon's Gully, and decided to camp for the night. Their signals were seen by a camper at Glen Nevis, who alerted the police.

The Lochaber mountain rescue team was called out and reached the climbers early yesterday morning after approaching the ledge from above. They decided that getting the climbers off the ledge might be difficult and called in a helicopter from RAF Leuchars. The helicopter brought down

the climbers and their four rescuers to Fort William. None of the five had any injuries.

The police at Fort William said the party of three was made up of Mr Andrew Parker from Buxton, Derbyshire; Mr Richard Savage from Sheffield and Mr David Bates, also from Sheffield. All three are students.

The girl was named as Miss Susan Bragg, from Uxbridge, also a student, the police said they would not name her companion.

● The police made more than 30 arrests at Southend when crowds of skinheads and punk rockers entered the town yesterday (Our Southend Correspondent writes).

Youths smashed windows of shops and amusement arcades on the seafront, and near the high street area, causing damage estimated at almost £5,000.

● Day trippers joined returning holidaymakers yesterday to crowd roads both to and from resorts. The Yorkshire coast, the Lake District, North Wales and the South Coast were all busy.

### 'Moonies' lose street sale fight

The Chief Constable of Grampian yesterday succeeded in getting members of the 'Moonie' cult banned from raising money in Aberdeen streets.

Sheriff Alexander Johnston supported a decision by Mr Alex Morrison, the Chief Constable, to refuse the Unification Church a pedlar's licence.

The ruling is a setback for the cult, which raises most of its money by selling plants, etchings and toys in factories, offices and in the street.

Mr Morrison refused a licence application by Mr David Earle, the regional sales director of United Family Enterprises, the Moonies' commercial arm, because he feared church members would use street sales as a way of getting access to people and their homes.

He had told Aberdeen Sheriff Court on March 25 that he made his decision after studying a report on Moonie activities in Aberdeen by senior officers after complaints from the public.

People had complained that members of the church had followed them home, carried out repair work near their homes without being asked and then requested money. In one case they had reportedly allocated themselves as a home help to a woman who lived alone.

The police were also told that Moonies had tried to persuade children to stay away from school.

Chief Inspector Simpson had told the hearing.

Sheriff Johnston said in a judgment issued yesterday that the Moonies' tactics were "a foot in the door", although there may have been no truth in the claim that street sales would be used to get access to people and their homes.

Dismissing the appeal, which he described as "a somewhat unusual animal", Sheriff Johnston upheld the police's claim that Mr Morrison had used his discretion and made the decision in the light of the complaints.

At the time of his escape Godfried was wearing a blue shirt and black corduroy trousers. When he was convicted, Godfried, who is married with two children, was living at West Gristead, Sussex. At his trial in October, 1979, a jury was told how he rammed the bicycle of a 22-year-old student in Fulham, London, and ran off with her handbag.

Then he drove to Putney and knocked down a girl aged 18, bundled her unconscious into his car and took her to a country lane where he raped her.

### Aid single mothers call

By Tony Samstag

Almost 80 per cent of Britain's single mothers, 127,000 of 160,000, depend on supplementary benefit and are therefore officially living in poverty, the National Council for One Parent Families says.

In a statement coinciding with the publication of its revised booklet *Single and Pregnant: A Guide to Benefits*, the council argues that present benefits should be higher.

In particular, it calls for supplementary benefit to be raised to mothers aged under 16; for the payment of a special benefit without a means test for single parents at the rate of the widowed mother's allowance; and the raising of the £25 maternity grant to at least £120 "to restore its value to its 1969 level".

The booklet is free to single pregnant women and single mothers from the council at 255 Kentish Town Road, London NW5 2LX.

### Hospital escape by rapist

By Stewart Tendler Crime Reporter

A man serving 14 years' imprisonment for rape, assault and kidnapping yesterday escaped from a hospital in south London after climbing out of a window while his prison escort were waiting near by.

James Godfried, aged 44, was convicted in 1979 of attacking two girls in west London by deliberately hitting their bicycles with his car. After being convicted of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, indecent assault and theft Godfried was held by a judge at the Central Criminal Court that had acted "like a footpad of old - like a beast".

His escape is the second by a prisoner convicted of rape charges in the past month. Michael Thynne, serving two life sentences, climbed out of his mother's bedroom while prison officers were waiting outside during a visit granted on compassionate grounds. He was later recaptured.

Godfried yesterday escaped from Brook Hospital in Woolwich, south London, by climbing out of the first-floor window of a lavatory and jumping 15ft to the ground. A prison officer is understood to have been waiting outside the lavatory at the time.

He had been taken to the hospital last month for treatment on his spine. He was guarded by two prison officers in a public ward.

At the time of his escape Godfried was wearing a blue shirt and black corduroy trousers. When he was convicted, Godfried, who is married with two children, was living at West Gristead, Sussex. At his trial in October, 1979, a jury was told how he rammed the bicycle of a 22-year-old student in Fulham, London, and ran off with her handbag.

Then he drove to Putney and knocked down a girl aged 18, bundled her unconscious into his car and took her to a country lane where he raped her.



Finishing touches: Mr David Ellis, a carpenter, trimming the coconut-fibre thatch on a cottage in Babbacombe Model Village, Torquay, which has been renovated over the winter. The 4½-acre village, which has about 330 houses, is based on the Devon village of Cockington. (Photograph: Martin Keene)

### Student survives 260ft plunge

From Our Correspondent, Bristol

A student aged 19 plunged 260ft from the Clifton suspension bridge, Bristol, yesterday and survived. Holidaymakers watched as the youth looked down for a moment and then jumped. His long black overcoat billowing, he plunged feet first into the icy river Avon.

He disappeared for a few seconds before resurfacing and swimming 40 yards to the bank where he was later pulled out by the police. Last night he was said to be comfortable in the Bristol Royal Infirmary where he was treated.

Miss Lorna Smith, aged 21, a nurse from Corby, Northamptonshire, said: "I just could not believe he was really going to do it. When he jumped I couldn't bear to look and turned away. I thought he had to be killed." Her boyfriend, Mr Dave Hendry, said: "He was sitting with one leg on the parapet. Then he swung the other leg over and looked down for a few seconds. He appeared to be very composed and then just pushed off. He disappeared under the water for a moment before coming back up and swimming

very slowly on his back towards the bank.

The police said it was lucky that the tide was slack or he could have been swept away by the fierce Avon Gorge currents. Inspector Ronald Powell said: "He is the first person we can remember who has lived."

Hundreds of people have plunged to their deaths since the bridge opened in 1864. In 1885, Sarah Henley, a Bristol barmaid aged 24 was saved by her Victorian dress which billowed open and acted like a parachute. She lived to be 85.

### Dispute threatens job scheme for offenders

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A Government funded jobs scheme run by Merseyside probation service for offenders looks certain to collapse after a dispute with a trade union that led to the police being called. According to the organizers of the scheme, about a hundred jobs will be lost and help to pensioners, the disabled and the lonely will end.

Under the scheme, which is funded by the Manpower Services Commission, Mr Roy Adams, Merseyside deputy chief probation officer, said painters and decorators, most of them offenders, had been getting £78 78p a week and juveniles £25 a week. The work involved decorating the homes of elderly people and the disabled and attending to their gardens. No charge was made for labour.

The police were called when dismissed workers from the scheme went to protest at the offices of the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians (Ucat) against its opposition to renewal of the jobs scheme.

Mr James Cousins, the union's regional organizer, alleged that workers among the protesters were hurling abuse at staff, using bad language and threatening violence. Mr Cousins now also claims that the probation service is an anti-union Establishment body.

Mr Adams denies this. "All our contracts encourage union membership and we were the first probation service in the country to negotiate a union recognition agreement with the National Association of Probation Officers", he said.

The dispute began, he said, when Mr Charles Harrison, a supervisor and Ucat shop steward, was made redundant because training under the scheme was transferred to a college as a condition of approval by the Manpower Services Commission. Mr Harrison is not an offender.

Mr Adams added: "We were reluctant to see Mr Harrison leave after his tremendous contribution to the scheme but we had no choice". Mr Harrison could not be reinstated because there was no money with which to pay him.

The work schemes are to be discussed at the area board of the commission on Wednesday. Mr Adams says: "Without union approval it is most unlikely that they will be accepted. In effect everyone now employed will be out of work and no further employment will be available."

The fire on board the Armorique which is owned by Brittany Ferries broke out on Saturday while the ferry was travelling from Roscoff in the Irish Republic. A French teacher died in the blaze. The Armorique, with 700 people on board, continued to Cork, and then returned to Roscoff yesterday with 136 passengers.

M. Roger Boso, the senior maritime official in Brest, said the fire "could have been caused by a voluntary act".

French radio reported yesterday that the police had discovered the £2,000 missing from M. Jean Lamy, who died

## New ecology group aims to make conservation pay

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

A new society which aims to reconcile conservation of natural resources with the economic interest of farmers, will hold its inaugural conference in Kent tomorrow.

Far from being a gathering of fringe ecologists antagonistic to agriculture, the conference has the support of the Ministry of Agriculture, several government-backed agricultural colleges and research centres, the Country Landowners' Association, the Countryside Commission, the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, the Council for the Protection of Rural England and the Nature Conservancy Council.

Those taking part will include representatives of the ministries Agricultural Development and Advisory Service (Adas), scientists from the Rothamsted Environment Station and the National Institute for Research in Dairying, and speakers from the Game Conservancy, the Kent Trust for Nature Conservation and the Dartington Institute of Community Studies.

The gathering has been brought together by the Society for the Responsible Use of Resources in Agriculture and on the Land (Rural), a non-profit-making educational charity partly financed by the Wates Trust.

Dr Mike Wilkinson, its director, worked until recently for the Grassland Research Institute and describes himself as "one of those boffins who are more farmer-oriented than particularly involved in ecology. I see this concept as trying to make conservation pay", he says.

The society describes its main aims as reducing dependence on fossil fuels; encouraging the profitable recycling of by-products; recognizing the

need for the conservation and management of wildlife, vegetation and landscape; and encouraging rural employment.

The conference will begin with a demonstration of how dairy slurry can be recycled to produce methane for heating purposes, liquid fertilizers, protein for animal food and garden compost.

Dr Wilkinson says: "The idea is that waste products from one enterprise can form the raw material for another and make money in their own right. We aim to be a peripatetic organization which will wander round the country trying to focus people's attention on those issues which will not just go away."

The one notable absentee from the list of supporters is the National Farmers Union, which Dr Wilkinson feels is because it sees itself primarily as a political rather than an educational group. But he is confident that individual farmers will quickly come to appreciate a conservation organization that is working in their interests rather than belabouring them as villains.

● The Council for the Protection of Rural England has appealed to the Government to safeguard the countryside from builders (our Environment Correspondent writes). It gave a warning about "a barrage of publicity from the house-building industry".

The council released the text of a letter it sent to Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for the Environment, on March 25 about the need to improve homes. It claimed that builders were pressing for permission to expand into the countryside because more than a million homes in England were classed officially as "unfit".

### LT chief quits two-storey office in economy drive

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

Dr Keith Bright, chairman of London Transport, is moving out of his notoriously grand office that featured in allegations of lavish living at LT three years ago.

The move is part of an economy drive at LT's headquarters in Victoria. Dr Bright says he has to set an example.

Described as more palatial than the Queen's and more imposing than the Prime Minister's, the chairman's office at London Transport is the size of a family house. It has two storeys and 900 sq ft of floor space. It has walnut-panelled walls and a domed ceiling with sculpted plaster of different colours.

As LT plunged deeper into deficit in the 1960s and 1970s successive LT chairmen declined to effect this particular economy on two grounds: they needed the space for constant meetings and an architectural preservation order prevented the room being subdivided.

Dr Bright's answer to that is to move into a smaller office next door and turn the big one into a full-time conference centre, releasing meeting spaces elsewhere in the building. His two lieutenants, Dr Anthony Ridley, in charge of the Underground, and Dr David Quarumby, in charge of buses, are moving into smaller rooms.

Occupancy of LT management space will be increased 58 per cent because of the changes, and by the end of next year five blocks of rented accommodation will be released, saving between £1m and £2m a year.

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### Slowdown expected in video market

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

The British video recorder market, which for the past two years has been the most buoyant in the world, is expected to slow down in the next 12 months. Japanese equipment will increase in price by up to 30 per cent because of an agreement between the manufacturers and the EEC.

The decision to standardize video equipment embodied in an agreement signed in Tokyo by the main consumers electronic manufacturers, may also contribute to that slowdown, as uncertain buyers delay their purchases.

The EEC agreement will have more immediate effect. Under its terms, Japanese imports will be restricted to 4,550,000 this year, and prices must reflect the true cost of manufacture and sale. That is sufficient to satisfy the Philips European electronics company, which had raised the action with the European Commission.

Kits of video recorders will be limited to 600,000, which will be included in the import total. They will be the type of product assembled, at least initially in British plants. Thorn-EMI intends to build recorders in Newhaven, Sanyo intend to manufacture in Lowestoft, Suffolk and Mitsubishi will build them at Haddington, near Edinburgh.

Last year about two million recorders were imported into the UK and this year that figure is expected to grow to 2,250,000 but will then begin to drop. More than four million recorders have been sold or are being rented in Britain, which represents about 18 per cent of homes with televisions.

Predicting the behaviour of the British video market has proved to be a hazardous occupation. Its growth has surprised even the optimists. It is possible that the expected price rises will not deter the

### Owners to take legal action on ferry blaze

The owners of the French ferry, Armorique, intend to take legal action against a person or persons unknown for a fire that killed one passenger and injured two dozen others a maritime official said in Roscoff, Brittany, yesterday.

The fire on board the Armorique which is owned by Brittany Ferries broke out on Saturday while the ferry was travelling from Roscoff in the Irish Republic. A French teacher died in the blaze. The Armorique, with 700 people on board, continued to Cork, and then returned to Roscoff yesterday with 136 passengers.

M. Roger Boso, the senior maritime official in Brest, said the fire "could have been caused by a voluntary act".

French radio reported yesterday that the police had discovered the £2,000 missing from M. Jean Lamy, who died

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# Thailand bombs Vietnamese as conflict grows on border

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Thailand used a jet aircraft yesterday for the first time to attack Vietnamese troops in on Thai territory. The attack, by an Air Force F5E fighter-bomber is seen as a serious escalation of the border conflict which began last Thursday with Vietnamese attacks on resistance groups near the border.



opposite Phnom Chat, the Cambodian resistance stronghold captured by the Vietnamese last week, and then attacked other Vietnamese positions closer to Phnom Chat itself.

Vietnamese anti-aircraft guns fired on the Thai planes but all returned safely to base. Earlier attempts by Thai infantry and artillery to dislodge the Vietnamese on the hill had failed.

With its seizure yesterday of another centre of Cambodian resistance, Vietnam has now knocked out three big anti-resistance bases on the Thai border in two months.

Skirmishing is still going on at Sihanoukville, opposite Surin province, but most of the 30,000 population has fled.

United Nations relief officials said 22,000 had gone to a safe area inside Thailand while thousands more had been scattered.

The defending guerrillas, loyal to Prince Sihanouk, leader of the anti-Vietnamese coalition government, are heavily outnumbered and outgunned by the Vietnamese. Thirty-five severely wounded from Sihanoukville have been admitted to a Red Cross hospital across the border in Thailand.

Last week Vietnamese forces captured an important Khmer Rouge base at Phnom Chat and in February they overran and destroyed a refugee and guerrilla base at Nong Chan belonging to the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF).

Thus all three groups forming the anti-Vietnamese coalition government have lost a base since Vietnam began its dry season offensive.

Tens of thousands of civilians supporting the coalition are now inside Thailand or have scattered into the interior of their own country. The number killed and wounded in the fighting for the three bases is still unknown.

Vietnamese troops appear not to be paying attention to the border and more have crossed into Thailand. General Arthit Kamlang-Ek, army commander in chief, said yesterday that he had received reports of Vietnamese crossing into Surin where he said the situation was "very serious".

Indicating that the Vietnamese had become more brazen in their infringements of Thai territory, General Arthit said that the events of the past few days had shown that the Vietnamese offensive were not new but a continuation of their policy to fight Thai troops. In the past they had always tried to avoid clashes when they infringed the border.

The Surin incursion was the fourth by Vietnamese soldiers since they launched their offensive last Thursday. One group of intruders is still occupying bunkers on a hill across the border from Phnom Chat, the base the Vietnamese captured last Thursday. A military spokesman said artillery had been ineffective against them because of the nature of the terrain.

A senior army officer in Bangkok said last night that the Vietnamese army and probably wanted to hold on to the hill as an observation post.

For the first time the Vietnamese offensive is driving Thai civilians from their homes. Large numbers moved south on Sunday away from heavy border shelling.



Border battles: Thai soldiers wounded in fighting with Vietnamese troops near Phnom Chat, north of Aranyaprathet, on their way to hospital for treatment.

## Police shoot black leader in Transvaal

From Michael Hornsby Johannesburg

A black community leader was shot dead at the weekend in a village in the south-eastern Transvaal by a white policeman who had earlier accused him of holding an illegal meeting in the local schoolyard. The meeting had been called to discuss the Government's plans for the forced resettlement of the village's 5,000 to 7,000 residents in tribal reserves.

The incident took place in the village of Driefontein, to the west of the town of Pietermaritzburg and not far from the Swaziland border. Driefontein is a "black spot", the apartheid jargon for land bought freehold by blacks before the passage of the Native Lands Act in 1913, which prohibited Africans from purchasing any more land in "white" areas.

Despite their legal title to the land, an estimated half a million inhabitants of "black spots" have been forcibly relocated by the Government in the various tribal reserves, also known as homelands or Bantustans, which have been set aside by the Government for occupation by blacks. These areas account for no more than 14 per cent of the total land surface of South Africa.

The dead man is Mr Sam Mkhize, aged 48, who was chairman of Driefontein's Council of Directors, a body formed by the villagers last year to coordinate resistance to their resettlement. The villagers are a mixture of Swazis and Zulus and the Government wants to send them to locations in the KaNgwane (Swazi) and KwaZulu (Zulu) tribal homelands.

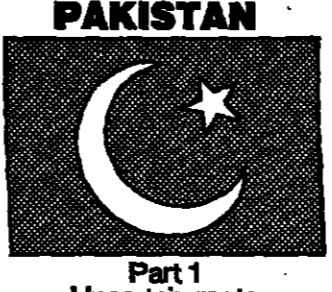
There are about 300 individual landowners in the village, some of whom lease out part of their small acreage to tenants on a sharecropping basis. They have dug their own wells and built their own shops, schools and homes.

They also raise enough cattle, goats and chickens and grow enough fruit and vegetables to feed themselves and have a surplus to sell to the East Transvaal farmers' cooperative. This is in stark contrast to the generally impoverished condition of the "homelands" to which they would be moved. Only those owning about 40 acres or more - the minority - would be entitled to claim land in their new homes of "equal agricultural and pastoral value".

The rest would lose everything. Driefontein itself would be bulldozed flat.

## Pakistan's crisis of identity

TREVOR FISHLOCK, Our South Asia Correspondent, reports on the making of an Islamic state in the first of two articles.



Part 1 Uncertain roots

It is a symptom of Pakistan's sensitivity and crisis of identity that Richard Attenborough's film *Gandhi* is likely to remain unknown here. Pakistan is an invented country still trying to define itself and is not yet robust enough to see a foreign film that touches on the tender area of its origins, and on its steeply and austere founder, Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The film has been condemned by the law minister as a denigration of the father of the nation, as a "false presentation of his personal and political life". Some critics see it as an attack by the "anti-Pakistan Indo-British lobby".

The debate proceeds apace in the press, and some of the participants have had the advantage of seeing the film, either abroad or on video. It is much in demand as it makes the rounds of the video-owning class in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad.

Many think it should be shown publicly and say Pakistan is revealing a sense of insecurity in not allowing it to be shown. There are, however, a number of difficulties. There is the portrayal of Mr Jinnah as severe and intractable. There is the fact that the film is tainted in some Pakistani eyes through having been made with the help of Indian Government money.

But the film also touches on the essence of Pakistan's existence, the circumstances of its birth and the role played by Mr Jinnah, and all these things have a part in the thinking of President Zia ul-Haq as his obsession with making Pakistan a perfect Islamic state grows stronger.

He believes Pakistan was founded not only as a social and economic haven for Muslims but, primarily, as an Islamic entity. Apart from the rigorous enforcement of order, his main aim is to create a state which is authoritarian and Islamic. Devout himself, he never makes a speech these days without stating the need for Islamization.

Part of the process is a greater emphasis on Islam in education and a revision of text books to give a stronger Pakistani and Islamic stamp. (Indeed, the word "pig" is being removed from text books, the animal being unclean to Muslims.)

The process also affects the image of Mr Jinnah, who was always respected, sometimes venerated, as the great man of Pakistan, and who is now being made more Islamic. His appearance is gradually being changed. His picture is everywhere in Pakistan, in public buildings and offices; but usually in the suit and tie he habitually wore.

Mr Jinnah was a fastidious dresser, but the President has ordered a new official portrait of him, showing the father of the nation in the cap and shawl coat he rarely put on. As the Islamic tide advances, not much is heard of Mr Jinnah's liberal views on the secular and democratic Pakistan he hoped for. The emphasis is on his playing of the politically useful Islamic card. There is naturally no mention of his appreciation of the whisky now forbidden by the regime.

The Attenborough film depicts the independence movement led by Mahatma Gandhi which was part of Pakistan's own history. Naturally its interpretation might cause discomfort in Pakistan. It reminds people that the movement was committed to democracy, a march to the sort of freedom that Pakistan's military leaders have denied its people.

India, under Nehru, began to fashion its version of democracy and has left 1947 behind. Pakistan, besides the loss of its leader so soon after independence, has been tormented by the question of what it should be, and by political failure.

President Zia's answer, the totally Islamic policy, places strains on the country because the Sunni Muslim majority, and the Shia minority, have their different and strongly held views of Islam. Next: Islamic conflicts

## Too much water in arid Utah

Salt Lake City (NVT)

Utah's Great Salt Lake, fed by record rain and snow over the past 18 months, has crept to its highest level in more than half a century. Flooding in low-lying areas has already caused millions of dollars worth of damage and state officials fear that the worst is yet to come.

The entire state of Utah is wringing wet, says Mr Tompkins Reynolds of the state's Department of Natural Resources and Energy, who adds that the spring run-off has not yet begun. Utah, normally America's second-most arid state in terms of annual rainfall, now has too much water, a problem it shares with much of the Rocky Mountain region and the southwest.

A series of storms driven inland from the Californian coast this winter have swollen rivers, lakes and reservoirs already brimming from record or near-record precipitation last year. In Arizona, rain and snow in the watershed of the Salt and Verde rivers above Phoenix has totalled 20in since last spring, nearly three times the normal. Reservoirs are overflowing and in the mountains of central Idaho, snow levels are far above normal for the second year in a row. Rivers have been near flood stage.

## Oil slick ceasefire is offered by Iraq

Baghdad (Reuters) - Iraq said yesterday it was prepared to observe a limited ceasefire in its war with Iran in areas affected by oil leaking from damaged Iranian wells.

An official Iraqi spokesman said that the ceasefire should be under the auspices of the United Nations or other international bodies.

Several previous Iraqi ceasefire proposals have been turned down by Iran during the Gulf War.

The spokesman said the ceasefire should be enforced after reaching an agreement on the administrative procedures of the ceasefire, he said. He did not elaborate.

"The ceasefire should not give the Iranian regime the opportunity to clean up the waterways in the Gulf or enable it to sail its ships and carry weapons or ammunition through these waterways or clear the zone of naval mines," he added.

"In line with the said conditions, Iraq is prepared to work honestly and seriously with all parties concerned to put an end to this issue."

Crude oil has been gushing for more than a month from two damaged Iranian wells in the Nowruz field at the head of the Gulf, causing a gigantic slick which is causing serious concern among Gulf states.

The spokesman said he was replying to a statement by Mr Khomeini Mousavi the Iranian Prime Minister which, he said, attempted to blame Iraq for the oil slick.

One of the leaking Iranian wells was apparently struck accidentally by a ship in February. The hit was reported to have been hit by Iraqi naval fire on March 2.

Foreign oil disaster experts have been on stand-by to try to cap the wells, but they have said they would need some kind of ceasefire arrangement since the fields are in a dangerous combat zone in the two-and-a-half-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

## Uganda Asians seek fair compensation

By Richard Dowden

The Uganda Government has been severely criticized for legislation recently promulgated to deal with property owned by Asians when they were expelled from the country by President Idi Amin in 1971. The British Government has also been criticized for refusing to act on behalf of Asians who are British citizens.

Mr Ian Macdonald, a lawyer specializing in civil rights, says in a report for the Uganda Evacuees Association that Ugandan legislation passed last year is "deficient in the key question of compensation" and needs clarification.

The Asians, some 40,000 with British passports and another 25,000 with other passports, were given three months to leave by Amin in August 1971. They left behind an estimated £200m worth of property: houses, shops, stocks and land.

Last year the Obote Government passed legislation to restore the properties to their original owners. The Government asks owners to apply for repossession before May 22 by filling in a form and sending it with £50, title deeds and other documents relating to the property to the Uganda Government.

The application will then be examined by a committee and if successful the owner must return to Uganda within 120 days. He is not allowed to sell the property for five years without consent of the Finance Minister.

In a speech on February 1, President Obote said that the act "is not and must not be interpreted as a scheme to persuade or attract the former owners to return to Uganda". Some of the richest Asians have already gone back and are being assisted by British aid to reestablish their businesses. But according to Mr Pratul Patel, former member of the Ugandan Resettlement Board, not many of the smaller businessmen and other professionals wish to go back. They want compensation.

Although President Obote claimed "there is provision in the act for any former owner who does not want to repossess his property to opt for compensation", it seems that the properties which are not repossessed will be auctioned off and the money raised paid to former owners. No one doubts that in Uganda's financial straits this would represent a tiny fraction of the property's value when they were expropriated.

When the legislation was passed Britain told claimants that there was now a perfectly good "local" law in Uganda to remedy to pursue their claims. A Foreign Office spokesman said that the Government reluctantly acted on behalf of the Asians in 1973 at the insistence of Amin. However, under pressure from the Ugandan Asian community in Britain, the Government has now agreed to seek clarification from the Ugandan Government on the question of compensation. It is still awaiting a reply.

## Vietnam: Pham Van Tam

By Caroline Moorehead

Mr Pham Van Tam, a 71-year-old former senator, journalist and human rights worker, has been in prison for almost five years without trial.

He is believed to be a prisoner at Chi Hoa jail in Hanoi. He is suffering from poor health. His wife is thought to have died last month.

As outspoken critic of the Nguyen Van Thieu regime, he was imprisoned several times by the South Vietnamese authorities. In late 1974 he became secretary-general of the now defunct Vietnamese League of Human Rights.



Prisoners of conscience

At the beginning of 1975 he was arrested and accused of being part of a plot to overthrow President Thieu. He was freed a few months later when the Provisional Revolutionary Government came to power.

Three years later, however, he was again arrested, this time by the Revolutionary Government police. Labelled a "dangerous element", he was told that he had "ideas against the regime".

For the first nine months of his detention, he is believed to have been kept in solitary confinement. Today, he is one of thousands of members of the former South Vietnamese administration held indefinitely and without charge.

## Council's tower block faces demolition after 12 years

By David Walker, Local Government Correspondent

A council-owned block of flats in Chelsea which was once hailed as an architectural achievement faces demolition only 12 years after being built. The evacuation of 50 families from the tower block at the unfashionable end of King's Road is a grievous loss of public accommodation in the Kensington and Chelsea borough, which is hard-pressed to house its less well-off residents.

It has also raised in the minds of tenants and opposition councillors several questions about the responsibility of architects and builders and the quality of management by officials and politicians of the solidly Conservative council.

Behind these questions lie issues such as the cost limits set for council building, the reliability of modern British building materials and a fear that the flashy exteriors of 1960s construction may conceal rotting and hollow cores.

In the case of Moravian Tower, at 311 King's Road, the core is rotting. According to a report by Cameron Taylor Partners, the latest of a line of consultants called in by Kensington council to survey the block, the brickwork is falling away, the concrete is crumbling and the steelwork is rusted.

Unlike other kinds of tower block, this has an unusual design; the external bricks hold the building up. The Government's Building Research Establishment is testing to see for how long they will continue to do so.

Moravian Tower is adjacent to the World's End council estate, which is an area of high rents where most residents need state assistance to pay them. The block, however, has had a stable, older population; it has been, people say, a tower block "that worked", or rather would have worked if there had not been damp.

Mr John Keyes, a Kensington councillor, represented the area in the early 1970s. "It was completed in 1971. Not long after, I was telling the council that it would have to be pulled down; the problems were such that it would be cheaper on the long run to rebuild it."

At first the difficulty with the damp was specific. Water leaked into the top flats. It was soon discovered that after rain the flats half way

## Shovel clue in murder inquiry

Detectives investigating the murder of Mrs Mary Willmore, an eccentric cat lover, found a shovel in her burnt-out house on Saturday, in Taplow, Buckinghamshire, have found a garden spade, broken in two, which they believe was used to kill her. The police believe it was used to force open the door of the house and later used to batter her eight times over the head.

Det Supt Maurice Caro, who is leading the murder hunt, said yesterday that the spade was one of seven or eight found inside and outside the house.

Mrs Willmore was found dead in the dilapidated house after an arson attack on Saturday morning. Several of her 15 cats died in the blaze.

Mrs Willmore, aged 74, who lived alone, never used doors and climbed in and out of the windows just like her cats. Mr Caro said that it was possible that the killer carried out the attack and returned to the house some hours later to set fire to it. It had been burning for 45 minutes before being spotted.

## Whitehall brief

Unusual ascent to the top Treasury job

By Peter Heeney

One evening at Westminster last May, an annual select committee hearing on tax and benefits suddenly came alive when Mr Peter Middleton, a Treasury deputy secretary, produced a dazzling vaudeville out of the most unassuming material.

The contributory principle was not new, he told the MPs. The Commons passed its first social security Bill in 1776, although it was thrown out by the Lords. It was all in Tom Paine, *The Rights of Man*. Volume two, he thought, not volume one.

The press bench, which engages in a running commentary on such occasions, wondered what it was all for. He was practising for the day he became permanent secretary, was the conclusion.

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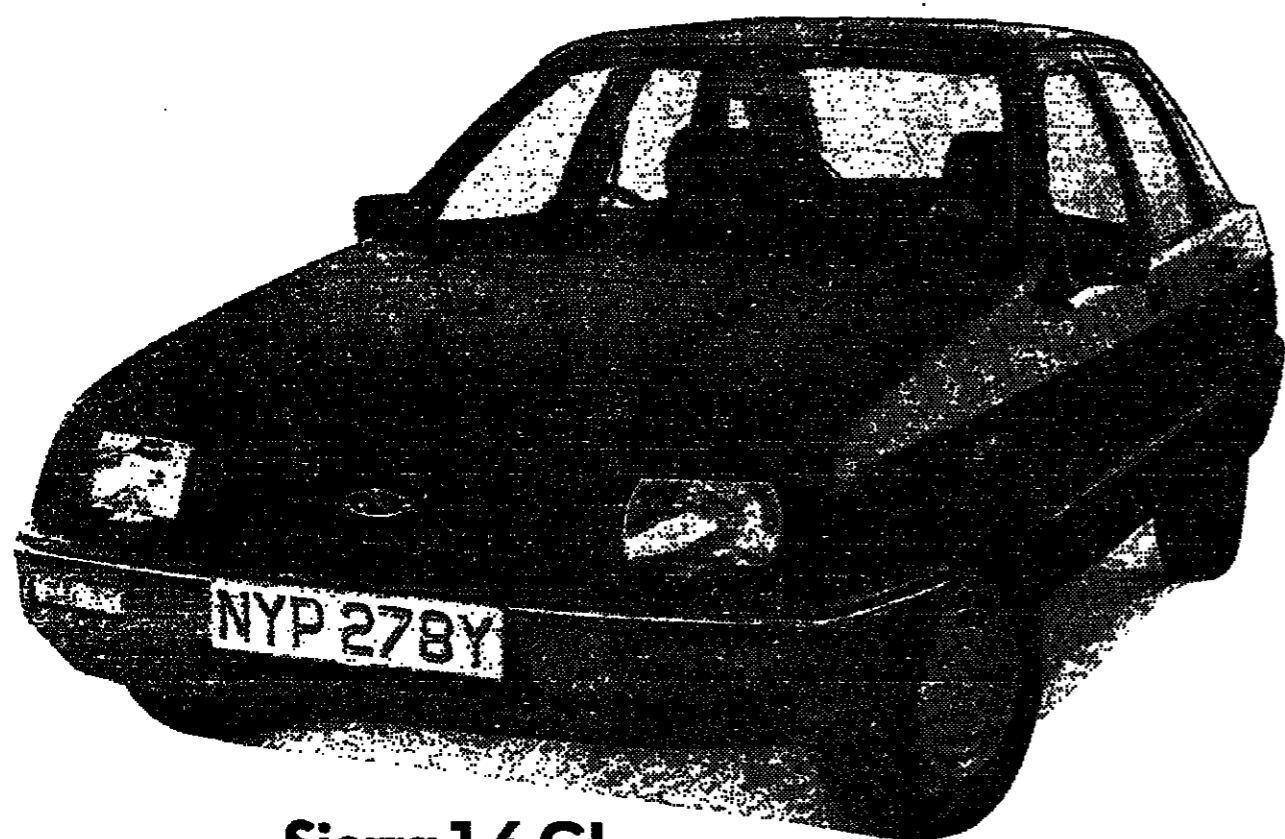
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**Sierra 1.6 GL.**

- 1600cc engine.
- Laminated screen.
- Front spoiler.
- Lockable fuel cap.
- Interior adjustable door mirror.
- Heated rear window.
- Intermittent wipe.
- Auto wash/wipe.
- Halogen lights.
- Reversing lights.
- Rear fog lamps.
- Front head restraints.
- Cloth upholstery.
- Front seat belts.
- Handbrake warning light.
- Digital clock.
- Trip recorder.
- Panel light rheostat.
- 3-speed fan.
- Cigar lighter.
- 27.9mpg (urban cycle).
- 44.8mpg (at a constant 56mph).
- A Ford.



**Santana 1.8 LX.**

- 1800cc engine.
- Laminated screen.
- Front spoiler.
- Lockable fuel cap.
- Interior adjustable door mirror.
- Heated rear window.
- Intermittent wipe.
- Auto wash/wipe.
- Halogen lights.
- Reversing lights.
- Rear fog lamp.
- Front head restraints.
- Cloth upholstery.
- Front seat belts.
- Handbrake warning light.
- Digital clock.
- Trip recorder.
- Panel light rheostat.
- 3-speed fan.
- Cigar lighter.
- 33.2mpg (urban cycle).
- 51.4mpg (at a constant 56mph).
- Interior adjustable passenger door mirror.
- Parking lights.
- Boot.
- Rear seat belts.
- Fuel consumption indicator.
- Gearshift indicator.
- 4+E Gearbox.
- Rev counter.
- 6 year anti-corrosion warranty.
- 3 year paint warranty
- A Volkswagen.

# Her Majesty's Inspectors of Taxes think they are exactly the same.

Happy New Tax Year 1983-4. Unhappily though, the taxable benefit rating on company cars is increased. Anything over 1800cc is now rated at an expensive £650. While anything between 1301cc and 1800cc is less taxing at £425. In theory then, the Ford Sierra 1.6GL and the Volkswagen Santana 1.8LX are in the same class. So much for theory.



# Soviet Union hints it will hit back at America over missile deployment

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The Soviet Union declared yesterday that it would not soften its rejection of President Reagan's interim proposal on medium-range missiles and hinted that it was considering ways of hitting back at the United States over the deployment of new Nato weapons in Europe.

Observers said the Soviet leadership has conceded that it could not now prevent the deployment of some, if not all, of the cruise and Pershing 2 missiles due to be placed in Europe by the end of the year. In his statement on Saturday Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, spoke as if the deployment of the missiles were a foregone conclusion, and emphasized that Moscow now felt itself to be encircled by American nuclear missiles based in Europe and Asia as well as the United States.

Pravda said yesterday that Moscow would retaliate against a first-strike potential in Europe, and would never forsake its security interests.

Sources said the Russians were still anxious to reach agreement at Geneva, but only if the United States made further concessions. Soviet political and military leaders do not regard the medium-range SS20 as a new factor in the East-West balance, but see it as an updating of the SS4 and SS5. Soviet generals are, therefore, urging the Kremlin to respond to what they see as the inevitable introduction of cruise and Pershing 2 rockets into Europe.

Tass said yesterday that the US State Department was wrong to imagine that Mr Gromyko's rejection of the interim proposal was unacceptable as subject to change.

American officials had reacted with "unusual haste" and had clearly not read the text of Mr Gromyko's remarks carefully enough, Tass said.

Informed sources said the Russians were actively considering three options: the stationing of nuclear-armed submarines in waters around the United States - to place America in "an analogous situation"; the deployment of SS20 rockets on the Kamchatka peninsula on the Bering sea, from where they could reach Alaska and part of the west coast of America; and the introduction of new Soviet missiles into East Germany.

Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Defence Minister, is to visit East Germany soon on an official friendly visit.

Sources said there were drawbacks in each case. In the case of East Germany, the Russians are reluctant to install missiles on the territory of an ally, and medium-range rockets would not, in any case, threaten the United States, from East German bases.

Observers said it was noticeable that the military and political leaderships had drawn together as if in time of crisis, and that military leaders were taking part in key decisions.

In a little noticed move, four army generals were recently promoted to the rank of Marshal, including General Vladimir Tolubko, Commander of the Strategic Rocket Forces.

Observers were struck by the fact that at his press conference Mr Gromyko did not say that Russia would destroy some of its SS20s if agreement was reached at Geneva. Such undertakings have irritated the generals, who would prefer to redeploy the rockets in Soviet Asia.

# 500,000 Germans against the bomb

Bonn (Reuter and AP) - The West German peace movement

more than 500,000 nuclear demonstrators marched to rallies yesterday at the end of four days of protest.

Organizers said demonstrators converged on cities including Dortmund, Mainz, Cologne, Hamburg, Frankfurt, Munich and West Berlin and their ranks were swelling all the time.

The biggest protest action against a military establishment was at Kellinghusen in Schleswig-Holstein. About 10,000 people formed a human chain round a Nato base where they say nuclear missiles are stationed.

About 180 protesters, who tried to block entry to a US radar installation in West Berlin, were detained for violating a ban on demonstrations near military facilities.

Police continually moved protesters sitting in front of the main gates of the US Wiley Barracks in Neu-Ulm, Bavaria, where Pershing 2 missiles may be deployed later this year.

One of those removed at the weekend was Herr Gerod Bastian, a retired army major-general who is now a Member of Parliament for the anti-nuclear Greens.

In Berlin, police said the arrested protesters were released over the weekend. In Frankfurt about 30,000 demonstrators gathered before a cathedral in the city centre, waving anti-nuclear banners and balloons. Pushing bicycles and baby carriages, protesters held public readings, "Stop US Rockets," and "For a Nuclear-free Europe."

At one of the biggest rallies, in Dortmund, Herr Joseph Lienen, the environmentalist leader, said the peace movement would make it virtually impossible for the West German Government to deploy cruise and Pershing missiles.

He said the movement would mobilize public opinion.

About 204 missiles are due to be deployed in West Germany unless the Soviet Union and United States reach agreement in the disarmament talks in Geneva by the end of the year.



Kohl courted

Chancellor Helmut Kohl (above) of West Germany has accepted invitations to visit Washington and Moscow though no dates have yet been fixed, it was announced yesterday.

An official statement said President Reagan invited Dr Kohl on March 30 to a working visit to Washington. On the same day, the Soviet Ambassador in Bonn, Mr Vladimir Semenov, extended an official invitation to Dr Kohl from Mr Yuri Andropov, the Soviet leader. It will be Kohl's first trip to the Soviet Union since becoming Chancellor. He visited Washington last November, a month after taking office.

In Frankfurt, Miss Melinda Fine, a representative of the American nuclear freeze movement, told demonstrators West German and European protests were supported throughout the United States.

In Basle, Switzerland, near the frontiers of both West Germany and France, more than 2,600 peace campaigners began an Easter march yesterday.

# US looks to Europe's new men

Washington (NYT) - The Reagan Administration

is devising a broad strategy to counteract what it views as growing anti-American tendencies among younger Europeans.

The target is a new generation of European leaders who share none of their parents' experience immediately after the Second World War, when Americans and Europeans worked closely to form a military alliance and reconstruct Europe's shattered economies.

Government and private opinion polls show that these young leaders - known here as the "successor generation" - have a far less positive image of the US partly because their views have been shaped by American involvement in Vietnam and by domestic crises like Watergate.

To counter the troublesome implications for future cooperation between Western Europe and America, Administration officials and foreign policy groups have undertaken a series of actions designed to reestablish close transatlantic bonds.

The Administration plans a multi-pronged effort. President Reagan's recent presentation of a new negotiating proposal for limiting medium-range missiles was partly intended to respond to growing pressure from US officials for more flexibility in the arms-control talks.

Mr James Baker, director of the Information Agency, has announced a million-dollar program to double from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 the amount of money sent to Europe each year to help with the reconstruction of the continent.

A similar program is being set up for the Middle East. A similar program is being set up for the Middle East.

Mr Peter Dally, Secretary of State's special representative to Europe, recently completed a report for the President on ways to strengthen European support for the US position in the disarmament talks.

Dr Schmeilitz has repeatedly refused to comment on the effect of the interferon treatments at the stud farm, saying he prefers to wait until the case is settled in the courts.

# Moscow's reprimand for Tokyo

Moscow (Reuter) - Tass said

yesterday that Japan was clearly conniving at an American nuclear build-up in the Far East and advised Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister to reconsider what it called a risky policy.

Tokyo should understand that the Soviet Union, (and) the Socialist countries of Asia, will not remain indifferent to the plans of further drawing Japan into the nuclear strategy of the USA," Boris Chelkomin, a political commentator wrote.

Mr Nakasone has denied the presence of any US nuclear weapons on Japanese territory, but the Tass commentary said this was just "putting a good face on the matter."

"It is an open secret that the Pentagon has already long been violating Japan's 'non-nuclear' principles," Tass said.

"The Japanese Prime Minister would be well-advised to think where such a risky policy can lead his country, rather than try to refute what has become obvious."

PEKING: Mr Zhao Ziyang the Chinese Prime Minister yesterday called on Third World nations to band together against the superpowers to create a new world economic order. AFP reports Zhao speaking at the opening of a symposium on Third World cooperation. Mr Zhao said China was ready to develop its economic and technological cooperation with Asian, African and Latin American countries.



Off the rails: A mud slide

# Epidemic mare loses her foal

Piber, Austria (AP) - A

Lippizaner mare receiving interferon against a virus has aborted her foal and is in a precarious condition, her veterinarian said yesterday.

"Her condition is causing us concern," said Dr Lothar Schmeilitz, resident veterinarian at the south-east Austrian stud farm where the famous dancing horses are bred.

The epidemic has killed seven or more and 25 foals since early February, paralyzing the



Say it with flowers: Sophia Loren, the actress, receiving a bouquet from a little girl during her visit to a Hongkong children's hospital.

# Illness 'simulated' TV crew arrested in West Bank

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The controversy over the alleged mass poisoning of more than 750 Palestinian schoolgirls in the occupied West Bank deepened yesterday when the Israeli military authorities arrested two members of the CBS American television network for allegedly persuading patients to simulate the mystery illness in a Nablus hospital.

Israeli security sources claimed that the arrest of the sound technician and cameraman had been ordered directly by General Uri Orr, the chief of Israel's central command. The arrests provoked fury among both local and foreign journalists who have frequently accused the Israelis of hindering reporting of events in the West Bank, where the first 66 cases of the illness were reported on March 21.

Mr Walter Lewis, head of the CBS Jerusalem office, denied a charge that the CBS crew had been ordered to simulate the illness. He said the CBS crew had been ordered to investigate the illness and report on it. He said the CBS crew had been ordered to investigate the illness and report on it.

Dr Hussein Obeid, the Palestinian director of public health services for the West Bank, released a statement which appeared to have been circulated to counter the dismissive claims of the Israeli authorities about the causes of the unexplained epidemic. It said that examining doctors had come to the conclusion that there was a medical reason for the mass illness, but that laboratories in the West Bank and Israel had so far been unable to identify it.

Already, the International Red Cross has sent a senior physician to investigate the bizarre medical phenomenon, which Palestinian blame on a form of mass hysteria.

Yesterday, a second independent investigation began in Nablus when two representatives from the Institute of Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, visited the town. The Israeli military authorities have been accused of hindering the investigation.

The arrest of the CBS crew was announced at Nablus hospital with the permission of the Palestinian director, who said it was a propaganda move. He said the CBS crew had been ordered to simulate the illness and report on it.

# Arafat and Husain in new talks

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Mr Yassir Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization chairman, met King Husain of Jordan again yesterday after an extraordinary meeting of the PLO's executive council in Amman at which the Palestinian leadership agreed on a ceasefire with Israel.

King Hussein said he had permitted some of the most radical and anti-Jordanian PLO leaders to travel across the border from Syria to discuss a new formula which would bridge the gap between the expressions of the Arab summit in 1982, last year, and President Reagan's proposals for Palestinian self-determination.

The United States has ruled out any direct PLO participation in talks over the future of the West Bank and Mr Arafat has stated several times that the PLO cannot accept such a condition.

But it was significant that Mr Fahd Kawasmeh, a former mayor of the West Bank town of Hebron whom Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, has mentioned as a possible negotiator, attended the executive council meeting in Amman. Mr Kawasmeh is not a member of the PLO.

The PLO might feel able to resolve the issue of representation by giving some kind of formal blessing to Mr Kawasmeh and other non-PLO Palestinians to take part in negotiations between King Hussein and the Israelis. But the Executive Council's resolutions called for an independent Palestinian state in Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr Arafat could conceivably settle the issue of statehood but the Israelis would be in no mood to discuss Jerusalem.

# Letter from Tokyo Japanese gloss on the Mickey Mouse magic

Japan after the Second World War was once described as "A nation of 120 million people"

which seems to have paled in the light of its successes since. Walt Disney and a group of head-headed Japanese investors, however, are counting on the child in millions of Japanese to reproduce successfully the famous play of the world's best-known rodent. It has become Tokyo's most prominent symbol, mastery over everything from sea shells to space-age electronic games.

This is no small tribute to the operational skill of those who created Tokyo Disneyland, a clone of Disney's original California entertainment park on a stretch of reclaimed marshland near central Tokyo.

TDL, as people in the business call it, will open its gates officially on April 15. It has already given a series of test previews. One such dry run involved invitations to more than 20,000 guests for a party and few empires could have rivalled Disney in scale or entertainment.

For an entire day the guests were allowed to roam through the park. Nearly all of the 32 attractions, 27 food outlets and 21 shows, on a 202-acre plot with 300,000 trees (not including 5,000 flowers making up Mickey's portrait) were in operation, at no charge.

The magic of Disneyland shone through despite cold grey weather. Guests were wearing mouse-ear caps were queuing for genuine American hotdogs and moving through Disney's version of fantasy (Peter Pan on his way to Never-Never Land), adventure (Pirates of the Caribbean) and the future (Space Mountain). A marching band periodically appeared, and Disney's cartoon characters frolicked everywhere.

TDL is a neatly exact, in some cases more technically advanced, replica of the rides and attractions which Disney opened in southern California in the original Disneyland, and in Florida at Disneyworld.

Walt Disney Productions did not, however, invest any capital in TDL. Instead, it spun for selling it up, Disney will receive 10 per cent of the profits, and 5 per cent royalties on everything sold in the park.

Financially, TDL seems a sure winner. It sits in the middle of a market of 30 million people (real 12-year-olds are living within 30 miles) and a billion are expected to visit it during the first year.

TDL is expected to spark the biggest boom in Asian tourism in years, an assessment which has Japan Air Lines, one of the park's sponsors, kicking its chops.

One worry was that the crowds would overrun the park, which forced the management to install an advance booking system. Sunday's and holidays are already booked solid until mid-summer, even with the massive crowd of several thousand at TDL's private party, the queues were long and public transport slow.

Disney has not agreed to export its fantasy worlds to any other country and Japan, visitors and residents alike agree, already has many of the elements which TDL is supposed to bring things work. The weather is good, streets are clean. Some would say that Tokyo itself is one of the best fantasy lands available.

"Come to Japan to see America," was the cryptic comment of one of the promoters. Indeed, one intriguing possibility, considering that attention to detail and dedication to doing things right are national passions in Japan, is that TDL could just baffle the real thing.

Richard Hanson

# Eight face charge over Bani-Sadr

The Iranian Embassy in Iran

of Tehran is accused of being involved in the escape of former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr from national news agency reports, according to Reuters.

Eight technicians who took part in the escape of Bani-Sadr from the Embassy in London, and Mr Masoud Razi, head of a left-wing opposition group, fled the country in July 1981, on board a plane which they now live in London.

# Mice just nice for a condor

The California condor

(above) hatched in a laboratory flapped its wings for the first time and has gained a bit of weight. San Diego wild animal park officials said yesterday.

Sisqoc, the first California condor born in captivity, is progressing well and contributes to have a significant appetite of chopped mice and vegetables food, Mr A. Maria Baker said in an AP report. She said the bird had gained about an ounce in weight since it was hatched at the San Diego Zoo last Wednesday and now weighs just over half a pound.

Mr Baker said Sisqoc's first six or seven meals of chopped mice and several helpings of regurgitated food over three hours by keepers who use condor puppets.

The puppets are used to feed the baby so the bird will imprint on a condor face rather than a human face.

"Now that the bird has better vision, we want to use the puppets all the time," Mr Baker said.

Biologists say that only 17 to 20 California condors are left in the wild and the huge scavengers are trying off at a rate of three or four a year. Four of the condors, the largest birds in North America, live in captivity.

# Terrorists' hack nine to death

Mattlar (Rimini) - Troops

found the bodies of nine people hacked to death in the southern Philippines. Police in Jassan, about 470 miles from Manila, said the killings in San Antonio, where it was believed to be the work of terrorists.

# Earthquake toll

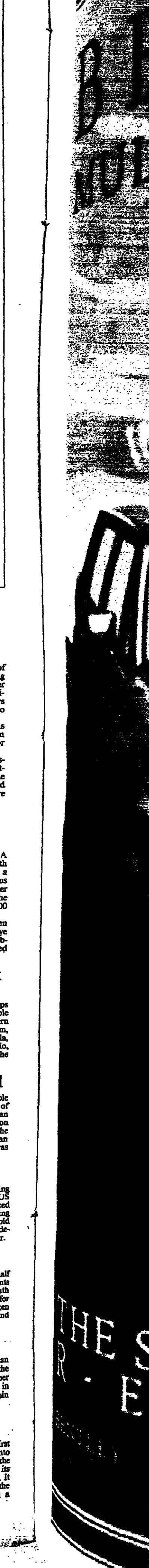
Jakarta - At least 100 people

were killed and scores of buildings damaged when an earthquake measuring 6.8 on the Richter Scale rocked the northern tip of the Indonesian island of Sumatra. Nobody was killed.

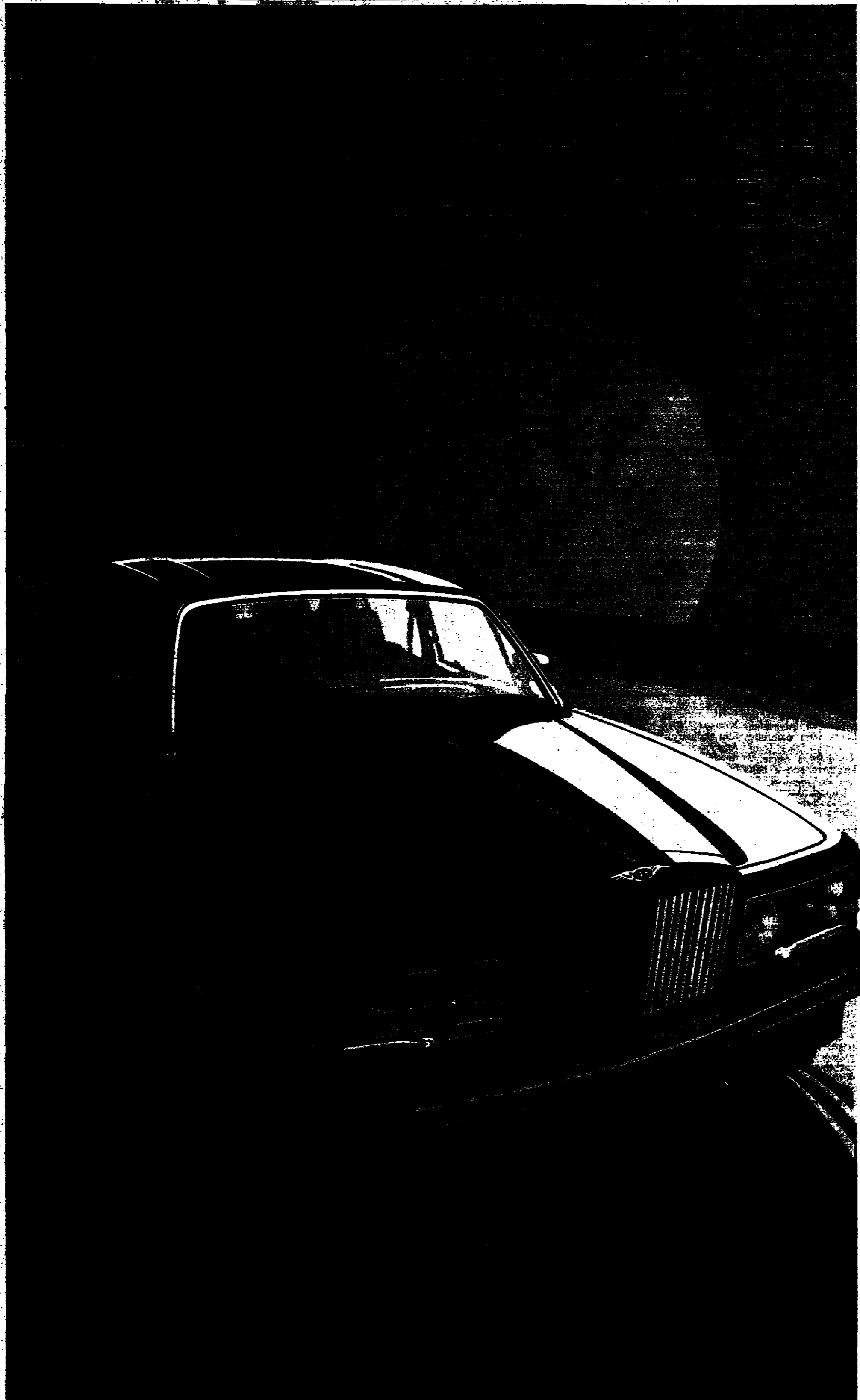
# Star can stay

Washington (AP) - Ignoring

appeals from China, the US Justice Department announced that politician Chen is being granted a 19-year-old Chinese passport who defected to the US last summer.



Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: 1250/1000



The Guardian said of the Bentley Mulsanne Turbo that it is "almost indecently fast."

It travels from 0 to 60 mph in 7 seconds. It will travel from 60 to 90 just as quickly.

It will push you back in the seat even when accelerating through 100 mph to its top speed in excess of 135 mph.

Such a remarkable performance is obtained by increasing the light alloy V8 engine's power output by 50% with a single turbocharger.

Consequently, Avon had to develop 235/70VR rated tyres specifically for the Bentley Mulsanne Turbo.

And a unique electronic knock sensor, which listens continually to the engine, was specially engineered and fitted to the car to prevent detonation.

Yet for all its increased power, the engine runs not one revolution faster and the traditional refinement of the car has not been compromised.

It is as quiet to travel in as a Bentley has ever been.

It is also as comfortable at 135 mph as it is at 50.

To say the Bentley Mulsanne Turbo is rare is understatement. No more than 125 people in Britain will own one by the end of this year.

If it is standing still, you will recognise it by the famous radiator. This is the only Bentley ever to have its radiator painted the same colour as the body of the car.

It may also display discreet 'turbo' badges on the front wings. If not, rest assured, the Bentley Mulsanne Turbo will go just as fast without them.

Enthusiasts for the marque say this car truly reflects traditions created by Bentley at Le Mans, Brooklands and Montlhery.

The makers simply state that in the Bentley Mulsanne Turbo, the Silent Sports Car returns.

# THE SILENT SPORTS CAR R - E - T - U - R - N - S

BENTLEY MOTORS LIMITED - CREWE - CHESHIRE

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID HARRIS

When Michael White cancelled a £1.5m musical the day before its premiere, his instinct was based on 20 years of gambling

# One in the i for a tastemaker

By Shirley Lowe

Michael White is not afraid of failure. Back in the early 1960s he survived six theatrical flops in a row: "I did them because I liked them and wanted to do them and not for commercial reasons", he says. Last year he successfully produced *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Annie*, but made dramatic losses on *Pass the Butter* and *The Understanding*. "Both plays lost a fortune", he observes cheerfully. "I've got good taste and judgment, but it's a fact of life that I'm not very good at business."

Now, his good taste and judgment are in question as he attempts to salvage a show from the shambles which was *i*, a highly publicised musical which closed before it opened at the revamped Piccadilly Theatre a couple of weeks ago. It cost the French backers £1,500,000 to transform the Piccadilly into a lavish, Lautrec-style, late-night restaurant, serving up dinner, disco, drinks and a cabaret along with the 90-minute show. Michael White closed down and gave the staff their notice the day before the Royal Gala charity premiere.

"Oh, everyone keeps saying: 'Couldn't you see it coming? Couldn't you do something?'" he says. "Of course we could see it coming, but with 70 people involved, it's like being in an avalanche. There's nothing you can do about it."

He explains that the reason he didn't cancel until the very last minute, when Princess Anne was practically in her party frock, was because he had hoped, as show business people traditionally do, that it would get better, that everything would be all right on the night. But the final dress rehearsal confirmed what presenter White and producer David Astor had gloomily suspected: *i* was a disaster.

Ironically, those elements which had beguiled Michael White into the cabaret and catering trade in the first place, caused the fiasco. *i* was never intended to be the sort of popular glamour and spangle item which Raymond puts on at the Windmill and Stringfellow is expected to offer us when he reopens the Talk of the Town. It had high artistic aspirations - "impressive and different", White said at the time - and involved choreographers from the Royal Ballet and Arturo Brachetti, a 23-year-old Italian mime

artist, much admired by society folk in Europe and New York. It turned out to be pretentious and totally incomprehensible. "I can be interpreted as the individual or as a symbol of the inward eye", wrote a reporter, pluckily trying to define the meaning of the thing. Brachetti was not just the star, he was also the director - and he had never directed before. It has been reported that there was something of a communications problem during rehearsals: when the key creative people involved spoke to each other, they didn't agree; the language barrier between the admiring coterie surrounding Arturo, the boy wonder, and the English cast was insurmountable.

The scenery, props and costumes caused anxiety. They did not arrive from France until just before the show was scheduled to open, and then they did not work. A chariot fell apart, depositing Brachetti on his bottom. An exploding piano failed to explode. Some of the cast were stuck in doorways by their ludicrously large headgear and others were painfully slashed by the costumes made from mirrors. To make matters worse, *i* meandered on for three and a half hours, instead of the required 90 minutes, making it impossible to find time to serve dinner to all the bemused and hungry prospective customers.

Michael White is now in New York; he went there by way of the Caribbean, where he called in to see Jean-Marie Riviere, a French director who has worked with Brachetti in Paris. White hopes to persuade M. Riviere to direct Brachetti in a brand new show at the Piccadilly later this year. It is, he says, extremely likely that Riviere will accept or that the French backers will come up with another £1m, but after all that embarrassing publicity last month, he prefers to keep it all very vague. "I don't think, actually, that this has affected my reputation at all", he says. "One swallow doesn't make a summer, or words to that effect. It was a gamble. For that matter, every show is always a gamble."

He has been a gambling producer ever since he brought the Cambridge Footlights - an amateur revue - to the West End when he was only 25 and launched them with the first of his spectacular, starry parties. A few years



Michael White (above) believes that his failure with Arturo Brachetti (above right) has not harmed his reputation at all

later he put on *Oh! Calcutta!* and it was touch and go whether the police would close it down on the grounds of obscenity. In the end, they didn't and the crowds came in charabancs to marvel at the nudes and the rude words. He has produced such beautiful bad-taste offerings as the Clash's *Rude Boy*. John Waters's Odorama film *Polyester* (the audience were given bits of card to rub at appropriate moments) starring the grotesque Divine, and *The Rocky Horror Show*, a highly sophisticated romp about a transvestite Frankenstein.

His latest gamble, a movie called *Strangers With Glads*, is the marvel of the film industry. White made it in Los Angeles for only £50,000 on an act now/pay later basis. "It's a gamble because we haven't sold it to anyone yet", he says. Last year, he courageously backed Jerzy Skolimowski's *Moonlighting* with a personal bank loan. "I thought it was so good that everyone should have the chance to see it."

He also took on the unknown Comic Strip lot when Peter Richardson fell through his front door one day, and then spent a great deal of time and

effort phoning up anyone with influence, begging them to go along to Soho and see these very funny comedians in action. "Well, that paid off," he says. "They are now doing very well indeed and we're making films with them for Channel 4."

When he was in his early twenties, a successful child of the youthful 1960s, Michael White made one of those marvellously quotable remarks which have a habit of boomeranging right back at you, years later: "I go along with Sartre, who says people over 45 ought not to have any position," he said.

Now, here he is at 46, looking no more than 28, it's true, dressed in de rigueur blue jeans, black jacket, black and white bow tie, correctly crumpled cotton-mac and muffer, tight black curly hair with, perhaps a hint of a tint. A man who has sat on the council of the Royal Court, the drama panel of the Arts Council. A person of position, no less. "Yes... well," he murmurs. He has one of those quiet, classless voices. "I sort of still feel that, in a way. Old people do rule the world, but

it's not actual age that matters, is it? I mean, Bertrand Russell at 90 was younger than most people at 25."

He is, he says, more catholic in his tastes than almost anyone he's come across. "I'm going to *Top of the Pops* tonight, but I'm just as happy to go to Covent Garden and see some opera that was written 200 years ago, if it's well done."

There is a disconcerting rightness about him. He drives a Porsche and a Jeep, of course. His home in South Ken is safe chic pale sofas, good bits of art deco, tastefully large pictures. The office, tucked away above St James's, has bookshelves full of the sort of books other people leave on coffee tables. Did he know about Gilbert and George before they became colour supplement heroes? Or did he get to them later?

"I suspect he bought the book on Gilbert and George at exactly the moment a sharp art editor and an imaginative television director were murmuring: 'Why don't we do something on that odd couple... you know... artists... somebody and George?'" He has that vital blotting paper quality which soaks up a trend before it has quite set, the reason why he is such an interesting and innovative entrepreneur.

"What does amaze me is the number of things I've done, the sheer volume", he says. He sees his job as the man who drives the chariot, holding all of the strings, while a lot of other people help pull individual strings. "The producer is always identified as the man with a big cigar who eyes the girls, but I'm not like that at all."

Michael White would never be vulgar - or old-fashioned - enough to eye the girls, but he certainly attracts them. He is divorced from the model Sara Hillsdon and they have three children, now aged 18, 17 and 15. "I think they think I am a little wild," he



## Women like his youthful pleasure in the new and different

says. The Australian journalist Lyndall Hobbs, now working in Los Angeles, has been his constant companion for years and shares a photo frame with his children on his desk, but he is nearly always pictured flanked by at least two or three pretty girls with names like Davina or Sabrina or Koo.

"I get on with women because I like them", he says. What they like is his youthful pleasure in the new and different and fun - he took one girl to see the Police at Wembley and was as excited as all the other fans to be at a pop concert - as well as the glamorous backdrop his lifestyle provides for any hopeful girl about town.

His friends say that underneath that laconic, man-of-the-world manner Michael White is shy and unsure of himself and that is why he is always giving parties, surrounding himself with celebrities. He says that he does it because there is something quite interesting that makes them into a celebrity, isn't there? "Anyway, after a while you know so many celebrities that they just become friends - or acquaintances."

"What I enjoy most in life is the thrill of seeing a very good performance. It is quite rare." He quotes Brachetti: "Captivating - and clever..." and Robert Wilson's avant-garde piece, *Einstein on the Beach*: "One of the best things I've ever seen." In New York he is taping up *Torch Song Trilogy*, a gay Jewish play which he will present over here later this year. "It is so good it shocked my socks off."

One of his most exciting moments in the theatre, he says, was the first time he saw the Pina Bausch Performance Company in Germany. He brought them to England in association with Sadler's Wells and a girl in the Sadler's Wells publicity department says it was such an unexpected visual and aural treat (nasal, too, since there was real, spring-smelling turf laid on stage) that some people were storming out of the theatre in a rage while other people queued to get in.

That is the kind of stimulating controversy you rarely get in classical theatre, unless a producer like Michael White is prepared to gamble their reputation. And for that to happen, perhaps there has to be an *i* or two along the way.



## He has that vital blotting paper quality which soaks up a trend before it has set

Washington - "It was a magical childhood," said Honoria Donnelly, who grew up in the South of France in the 1920s in a world peopled by such expatriates as Hemingway, Fitzgerald and Dos Passos. "Every day was an event."

Mrs Donnelly was four years old when her parents, Sara and Gerald Murphy, headed for Europe from America to escape their oppressive families and to find what they termed cultural nourishment. They settled in the south of France in a seven-acre, 44-room Cap d'Antibes villa. The spot became a sort of port of call. Mrs Donnelly said, for artist and writers whose names are now legendary.

A quicksilver couple whom the poet Archibald MacLeish once described as "sort of a nexus with everything that was going on," the Murphys were generally credited with starting the summer season on the Riviera. They were portrayed in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night* and became the subject of Calvin Tomkins's *Living Well is the Best Revenge*. Now Mrs Donnelly, in collaboration with Richard N. Billings, has produced *Sara and Gerald: Villa America* and *After*, a memoir in which personal reminiscences by Mrs Donnelly alternate with a narrative by Billings culled from family journals and letters.

Mrs Donnelly and her husband, William, a speech writer in the Kennedy administration who wrote the foreword to the book, sat at home in McLean, Virginia, recently and talked about the book's beginnings.

For years she said, her husband and three children kept after her to write down the stories she had told at the dinner table: how Picasso mixed his paints with a long fingernail on the little finger of his right hand; how Hemingway taught her to clean fish; what

Jazz Age legends were in the making when the Murphys entertained on the Riviera

## In the social swim at Villa America

had gone on at a fairy-tale party that Zelda and Scott Fitzgerald once gave for their daughter, Scottie.

Mrs Donnelly rummaged through some albums as she talked, and came out of faded photographs and from the words she spoke.

"Dorothy Parker had a cosy presence," she said; "Hemingway taught me not to be afraid. He was very gentle and had a quality that somehow made me want to please him; you wanted to do well in front of him. Picasso was funny; he would say



Gerald, Sara and their children on the beach at Cap d'Antibes, where they began the shift from winter to summer holidays

unerring eye for shape and form and Sara Murphy an instinct for living and entertaining.

The Murphys painted set designs with Picasso for Diaghilev ballets, a young pianist, Arthur Rubinstein, played for them in their Paris apartment, and their villa was a magnet not only for the American colony in Paris but for such as Monty Woolley, Cole Porter and Cocteau. Cocktails were a ritual presided over by Murphy, Philip Barry, the playwright, once told him: "Gerald, you look as though you're saying mass."

But the fairy tale came to a tragic end. In 1929, Patrick contracted tuberculosis, and the Murphys' last years in Europe were spent at sanatoriums in search of a cure. Scott died in 1935 of meningitis, at the age of 16. Two years later, Patrick died, also at 16. After Scott's death, Mr Murphy wrote to Fitzgerald, "Life itself has stepped in now and blundered, scarred and destroyed."

The friendships and correspondence with the Hemingways, the Fitzgeralds and the MacLeishes endured long after the Murphys returned to the United States, where Murphy took over the family business, the Mark Cross Company.

When Murphy died in 1964 at the age of 76, Archibald MacLeish chose the inscription for his gravestone, turning to King Lear. It says, "Ripeness is all". Sara Murphy died 11 years later. She is buried next to her husband in East Hampton, their last home. The inscription on her gravestone had been chosen by him before his death. From Thomas Campion, it reads, "And she made all of light". "When mother saw it for the first time," Mrs Donnelly said, "she cried."

Barbara Gamarekian © New York Times

## Anyone for a bike-ride up the M1?

Not a day seems to pass without someone setting off to walk to the North Pole, run across the Himalayas or cross the Atlantic in a hip bath. But for those readers who may have missed the departure of some of the more interesting expeditions now afoot, I provide a short check-list.

**Disco Dance to the North Pole**  
A group of unemployed youngsters from Streatham aim to become the first people to disco dance to the North Pole. They are tremendously fit, having trained every night for the last three years, and don't see any problems ahead. "It'll be cold, of course," says spokesperson Kevin, "but you keep really warm doing disco dancing, and the snow and ice won't make much difference. It gets pretty freezing in Streatham, too, you know. If there is a problem, it will be transporting all the disco gear - sound system, light show, etc - but we've got a good roadie. At least it will prove that young people still have initiative."

**Water Ski Across the Atlantic**  
Bert Randles of Miami believes that nobody has ever water-skied across the Atlantic going west to east, and aims to do it when the weather gets better. The initial problem was in finding someone who would tow him, but he now reckons he can make use of a cargo ship doing a scheduled run, and hang on behind, well out of reach of the propellers.

"OK, so there's always a chance I might fall off, especially if I get tired," Bert admits.

**The Highest Cocktail Party in The World**  
Lord Lichfield and the most beautiful women in the world, who have represented Britain at almost every event, whether they got an invitation or not, now intend to stage the highest cocktail party in the world. The present record, they believe, is held by a British Embassy reception in uptown La Paz, Bolivia. The main problems at high altitude come from the fact that mulled wine boils at a very low temperature and that in cocktails the cherry freezes to the side of the glass.

**Great Disused Railways of The World**  
A new series being planned by the BBC, to follow the success of their previous railway series, in which - among other delights - Michael Wood will walk the length of the mythical Inca railway through the Andes and Terry Wogan will explore the legendary

## NO MORE OVER Miles Kington

"And the ship will get tired of turning round to pick me up again. But the way I see it, there'll always be another one along in a day or two. It gets cold at nights in the Atlantic, I believe, so I'll be wearing a fur-lined pair of swimming shorts and really thick water-proof socks. The one thing I worry about is that when I make landfall in Europe, I'll have to go through immigration, and there really isn't much place a water-skier can keep a passport about his person. I reckon I'll have to bluff my way through."

Dublin Underground. This latter is believed to have had three circle lines, none of which met at any point.

**Sponsored Paddle Through the Brazilian Rain Forests**  
The rain forests of South America have been crossed often enough, but never before by four old age pensioners from Morecambe. Wearing knotted handkerchiefs on their heads and with rolled up trousers, they intend to wade up the rain forests as far as they can go, or

until they run out of hot Bovril, the makers of which are sponsoring the trip.

"We've heard as how there are some funny things lurking around in the water there," says spokesman Brian. "All I can say is that there are some bloody funny things lurking in Morecambe Bay, mostly thrown in the water at Blackpool, and we're ready for anything."

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 31)

**ACROSS**  
1 Dormant (6)  
2 Blow (4)  
3 Deterious (5)  
4 Cold compress (3,4)  
5 Wire message (8)  
6 Move quickly (4)  
7 Mature state (9)  
8 Prayer leader (4)  
9 Vehicle (8)  
10 Investigation (7)  
11 Lengthwise (5)  
12 Gun (4)  
13 Bind (6)

**DOWN**  
1 Take unawfully (5)  
2 New York time (1,1,1)  
3 Humanitarian (1,3)  
4 Expelled air (4)  
5 Limp (7)  
6 Ill-humoured (5)  
7 Antelope (4)  
8 Larva (4)  
9 Having life (4)  
10 Not professional (7)  
11 Record (4)  
12 Brown (5)

**SOLUTION TO No 30**  
ACROSS: 1 Pedestrians 9 Extinct 10 Liger 11 Ere 13 Tore 16 Fish 17 Rocket 18 Nasty 20 Less 21 Bizarre 22 Runt 23 Tsur 25 Spa 28 Charm 29 Adopt 30 Photosphere  
DOWN: 2 Enter 3 EPNS 4 Toie 5 Idle 6 Neglige 7 Beaten track 8 Orchestra 12 Reifer 14 Cry 15 Scrimp 19 Sunbath 20 Let 24 Scour 25 Smit 26 Arts 27 Dash

مكتبة من لاصح



# FASHION by Suzy Menkes

## A new angle on the body

Packing for a sunshine holiday means suspending disbelief in warm weather and hanging out all your light clothes on show together. Any separates that cannot be worn with at least three other items should be ruthlessly jettisoned. A holiday kitbag demands mix-and-match garments that can work together for day, evening, beach or town.

That means that you have got to stick to a basic colour scheme probably based on one or two shades with white. Since a fresh fashion breeze has blown away all the floral sarongs and peasant skirts, you could this season choose streamlined sporty shapes in just black and white, with the odd dash of primary colours.

Stripes broad and narrow are the theme of the T-shirts, beach tops and sweat shirts that make up holiday sportswear. But the important thing is not the geometric patterns printed on to them, but their basic shape and proportions. The fashion cut is now quite generous, so that shirts have a dropped or raglan shoulder rather than the classic set-in sleeve. Shorts are getting baggier, too, often with a rolled hem held with a popped slot, and this same rolled effect is found on sleeves of shirts and jackets. The newest trousers are all cropped with T-shirt tops, cotton knit sweaters and blouson jackets cut off sharply at tunic length.

The new clean mood has affected swimwear too. The one-piece suits are inspired by dance exercise tops and leotards, made in lightweight fabrics that mould the body and are designed to stay in place for action sports.

The shaping of the most interesting swimsuits is technically dazzling, as they are often cut on the cross or out of a single piece of fabric with the fit fashioned with stretch, not seaming. The new theme from the Israeli swimwear house of Gottex is asymmetrical, so that blocks or triangles of colour are swept across the body contrasting geometric angles with the curve of the figure. These kind of optical illusions can cleverly change the apparent proportions of the body.

Tricks with stripes are played by Gideon Oberson using horizontal patterns for a swimsuit below the waist and vertical above to give the illusion of a two piece, or when a plunging front swimsuit has horizontal stripes on its cut-away bottom half and stripes set in a herringbone panel at each side of the bodice.

Swimwear is now an integral part of many designer collections, so that a lot of creative input is channelled into cruise lines. The Emanuel Ungaro shop is now carrying his Sola Donna collection of young summer separates and Simpson Piccadilly have the lively



Christian Dior summer knit range.

Because swimwear is now in tune with the rest of our wardrobes - rather than beached on some distant paradise isle - it has also become a part of total holiday dressing.

The Atlantic shoreline is also catered for in the beach outfits that include a cotton cardigan, a track suit jacket or a long sleeved velour top that all give warmth without weight on chilly days.

Summer shoes also seem to show more variety. There are still open thonged sandals and the rope-soled espadrille goes marching on, but canvas open-toe pumps and mesh ballerina flaties offer alternatives that will see you through the Spring.

Accessories are the things that pull simple summer separates together: the multi-coloured canvas belt, the shell-decorated hair combs, the boiled sweet transparent beads, the spotted kerchief. Because clothes are getting sharper, so are the new accessories, with angular earrings, chain belts and sports watches engulfing the earlier wave of ethnic bangles and cheesecloth shawls.

The best accessory of all is a suntan. You can't take it with you when you go, but it will make all your holiday clothes look twice as good when you try them on in front of the bedroom mirror back home.



Above: Black swimsuit with white abstract motif, approx £40 (b/w only) by Anna Club from Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1; Harrods; Peter Jones, Sloane Square, SW1. Black and white cotton mini skirt, also in assorted colours with white, £35.50 by Philippe Salvat from Harrods, Harvey Nichols, Habes Corpus, NW1. Lolita sunglasses from a

selection at Flip, 126 Long Acre, WC2 and branches. Mesh pumps £14.99 from Faith, 383 Oxford Street and branches. Above right: White swimsuit, black striped with primary coloured abstract print, approx £35; cotton crepe culottes (and top not shown), approx £69. Both by Anna Club from Madeline, 16 St

Christopher's Place, W1; Joan Pouting, Birmingham. Right: Graphic bandeau-top swimsuit, sizes 10-16, approx. £15; black crepe, towelling lined reversible jacket approx £35 from a selection by Abecita from She, Tranquil Vale, Blackheath, SE3; Imago, Wimbledon Hill Road, SW19; Prompt Corner, Southampton;

Desk Out, Salcombe, Devon. Compass watch by Porsche Designs from Porsche Car Centres countrywide, Harrods and leading department stores. Photographs by MARIO TESTINO. Make-up by Rossie Salinas for Coloreta, Lima, Peru



## Holiday kitbag

**The sharp separates:** Collarless cotton shirt with blue, yellow, red black or jade green stripes, £12.95 by Gloria Vanderbilt from Dickins & Jones; Debenhams, Oxford Street, W1; Fenwick, Brent Cross, NW4; Army & Navy stores. Slim cotton skirt in jade green, pastel yellow, blue or pink, £16.95. By Gloria Vanderbilt from Dickins & Jones; Peter Jones, Sloane Square, SW1; Alders of Croydon and Sutton.

**The new graphics:** Hot pink and white striped towelling bandeau bikini, £18. Also jade green and blue/white. By Jerses from Dickins & Jones, Regent Street, W1; Greensleeves Herne Hill, SE24; Wickatts, Wells, Somerset; Pretty Things, Sussex Hill.

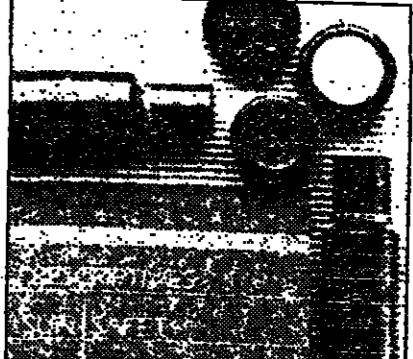
**Matching asymmetric-stripe cover-up, £19 from Dickins & Jones; Eaden Lily, Cambridge; Grunchy, St Helier, Jersey; Bridge Gallery, Looe, Cornwall; Dya Brothers, Shrewsbury.**

**Summer lightweights:** Mesh T-shirt with raglan sleeves and eyeletting, white, red, green, blue, sizes 10-16, £7.99. Red cotton shorts with turned hem, also red, sizes 8-14, £9.99. Both from major Marks & Spencer stores.

**New proportions:** White and black cotton Japanese print top, £12. Cropped trousers, £14. (b/w only), small and medium by Hindukush, mail order from Hindukush, 229-231 Portobello Road, W11, add £1.50 p & p.

**The optic print:** Black and white abstract patterned cotton vest, also red, green and purple with black, £9.95 by Watts from Vario, Forres, Morayshire; L'Interieur, St Ives. White washed cotton shorts with button-fly shorts, £33 by Katherine Hammett from Joseph, 6 Sloane Street, SW1 and Chinese Laundry, 14 South Molton Street, W1 and 53 King's Road, SW3; Splash, Bath; Warehouse, Glasgow; Corniche, Edinburgh.

Illustrations by JOHN BABBAGE



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هكزان من الذهب

Geoffrey Smith

# Where are today's action men?

by Edward Heath

Faced with the world economic crisis, the Western governments have either delayed the necessary action or preferred to pass the buck to each other. This is true in all three of the principal tasks facing them in the field of international economic policy today: to counter deflation; to stabilize exchange rates; and to maintain confidence in the commercial banking system.

Many, including our own Chancellor of the Exchequer, now concede that economic expansion by some governments is essential for a sustained upturn in investment, output and employment.

Yet the British Government looks to the Germans and Americans to initiate the expansion; the Germans look to the Americans and the Japanese; the Americans wait for the reduction of their budget deficit and for the allies; and the Japanese wait for everyone else.

This is a prescription for further depression. Simultaneous and coordinated expansion is needed by those countries with lower rates of inflation and adequate control over the public finances. The only decisive obstacle here is the United States budget deficit. If that can be brought under greater control, the United States, Britain, Germany and Japan should be in a position to expand together.

When it is no longer possible to pass the buck, the excuses begin. Action to stimulate growth would be inflationary, we are told, even though we are now in the most deflationary situation since the 1930s, with

which they created a new world economic order after the war is striking. The conference at Bretton Woods, which set up the principal institutions of this order, lasted 22 days.

From the moment General Marshall first proposed his plan for the economic recovery of Europe, it took only three weeks for the British and the French to accept it, and only 11 months for the Europeans and the Americans to agree on a comprehensive four-year scheme of action.

The European Communities were no less rapid in their creation. The treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community - the first great act of reconciliation between France and Germany after centuries of conflict - took only 11 months to conclude. The European Economic Community was created less than two years after the conference of Foreign Ministers at Messina in June 1955, where it had been formally proposed.

These remarkable creative political acts, in which wholly new institutions and systems of international order were launched by a mere handful of meetings, starkly highlight the irrelevance of the plethora of ministerial conferences and summits which litter today's international agenda, but achieve next to nothing. What is needed are binding agreements, not empty promises; adequate time to reach agreements, rather than two-day media festivals; and the willingness to face up to collective responsibility, rather than to pass the buck.

spare industrial capacity and unemployment at record levels everywhere.

Then we are told that the financial markets will supplant any attempt at economic expansion, having been taught by monetarist governments to believe that expansion inevitably goes into inflation rather than output. If they have been so taught, then they can be untaught or retrained. Indeed, those governments with the best credentials as monetarists who now realize the need for expansion are likely to be the most credible and effective in this process of re-education.

Successful expansion requires more stable exchange rates. The present wild swings are a strong disincentive to investment and trade. Yet neither the US nor Britain has been prepared to work out a system of coordinated monetary, fiscal and exchange rate policies to preempt damaging and unjustifiably large swings in parities.

The banking crisis has been met no more decisively. The Brandt Commission, among others, concluded as early as December 1979, before interest rates and oil prices had risen to their record heights, that the Western commercial banks were becoming severely over-extended in many developing countries. Nothing was done about this until Mexico was on the verge of financial collapse last August - three years later.

The contrast between the inertia of governments today and the speed with

# Privately, a Tory back-peddalling

Sir Geoffrey Howe has been in the vanguard of those Cabinet ministers calling for some privatization of the welfare state. Last July he made a notable speech in Cambridge suggesting that it was time to consider "how far private provision and individual choice can supplement or in some cases possibly replace the role of government in health, social security and education".

Last Wednesday in Hemel Hempstead he set out deliberately to carry forward that debate. But there were important differences. He said nothing that contradicted any of his remarks in Cambridge, but the omissions were suggestive. Last July he had spoken favourably of a system of charging for publicly provided services, saying that "in some cases charges might be a preliminary to some form of private sector involvement". There was nothing specific about charges last week. At Cambridge he had referred hopefully to the possibility of school vouchers and student loans. Neither received a mention last week.

Above all, the tone of the two speeches was different. He was just as enthusiastic last week as he has ever been about the value of private health care and private education. But he spoke of them more as the handmaidens than as rivals of the public sector: "more private provision in these fields lessens the burden on limited resources".

He even spoke with pride of the additional resources devoted by this Government to the health service and to improving social security benefits - while expressing confidence in the scope for savings from administrative changes that stop well short of the more radical measures at which he was hinting earlier.

It can hardly be an accident that Sir Geoffrey did not get round to mentioning school vouchers and student loans last week. There has been opposition to both at significant levels within the party. The education policy committee under Lord Beloff has reported unanimously against vouchers. The Conservative backbench education committee under Sir William van Straubenzee has come down against vouchers and loans. The critics are not without support in the Cabinet - from direct and senior civil servants as well as from MPs.

It is now highly unlikely that there will be any commitment to student loans in the manifesto. A large question mark hangs over the idea of vouchers, though it is just possible that there might be a promise to experiment in this field. In general there seems to be a greater recognition of the practical difficulties

presented by some of the proposals for social privatization.

The point at issue is not whether private education, private medicine and private provision would be desirable. No Conservative would doubt the case for private provision in the social field continuing and possibly expanding. The critical question is whether it is necessary for any government to do more than simply allow this to happen. Should there be changes within the public sector to encourage the operation of market forces and stimulate demand for private provision?

This is not an issue on which it is wise for Conservatives to take a doctrinal stand. It would be absurd to suggest that the demand for private health care, private medicine and private schools is not affected and private provision is not influenced by what is on offer in the state public and private sectors in all these fields can be influenced by government policies, and it would not be unreasonable for a Conservative government to act in accordance with its own philosophy.

But if its actions are governed only by its philosophy it is likely to have trouble. Any changes would have to meet tests not just of principle but of practice. They would have to take account of what is already happening: no government starts with a clean slate. They would therefore have to be effective within a politically acceptable period of time - which means within the lifetime of a parliament for any highly contentious measure - and would have to be capable of being implemented without too much upheaval.

One of the principal reasons why vouchers and student loans have been losing Conservative friends has been the growing realization that for quite some time they would be more likely to cost than to save money. It is better to appreciate that now rather than later. Higher and more extensive charges in the health service may well be necessary to contain costs; but the simple assumption that this would automatically lead to greater demand for private care needs rigorous examination. Private health charges might go up correspondingly.

The Conservatives should not be ashamed of treading warily now before they make commitments. They need to be sure that any changes they introduce would achieve the purposes they seek. Otherwise they would do better to leave it to existing market forces. This of all governments should beware of the fallacy that demand for private provision in the social services will not grow unless the state acts.

# THE TIMES DIARY

## Just not critic

Derek Parker, until recently chairman of the Society of Authors, has been sacked as book reviewer for ITV's teletext service, Oracle, for reviewing a book of his own. Parker admits that it was he, under the pseudonym William Blanchford, who supplied Granada with what he claims to be the "secret" memoirs of the nineteenth century courtesan Corn Peral. Blanchford's *bona fides* having been challenged in *The Sunday Times*, officials at Oracle became suspicious when Parker contributed a warm review of the book. Parker says: "I suppose it was always likely someone would find out. I only meant the review as a mild in-joke. William Blanchford was the name of my maternal grandfather".

## Logarithms?

With donnish understatement, Richard Maunder, a Cambridge maths lecturer, says he found writing Mozart's music "difficult". The authenticity of his efforts can be judged at tonight's performance of Mozart's *Requiem* by the Academy of Ancient Music at the Barbican. Maunder, a keen viol player, has tried to disentangle Mozart's own unfinished work from that of Süssmayer, to whom its completion was entrusted by the composer's widow. Though most of the violin part and bass figures were annotated by Mozart, Maunder had to supply most of the Amen fugue, for which Mozart had written only 16 bars.

## Scotched

John Mortimer has upset his old Oxford college, Brasenose, with his description of his Roman Law tutor, Sonner, in *Clinging to the Wreckage*. Mortimer describes Sonner as "a mountainous old man who drank a bottle of whisky a day". Particularly inappropriate, the Brasenose magazine notes satirically, since Sonner drank little whisky and always so much diluted that it was "very easy for his butler to syphon off part of the contents of every bottle in his cellar and fill them up with water". The butler's deceptions were discovered only after Sonner, mistaking doors on the train, had tumbled to his death on the tracks outside Didcot. The college, the magazine records regretfully, made the mistake of buying up the old man's whisky.

## Bleak pudding

Manchester is having trouble finding a candidate to take part in a black pudding eating contest at Euston station on Thursday. Champion scoffers from neighbouring areas of Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside are preparing for the feast, part of an exhibition to promote tourism in the North-west. The glorious mixture of pig's blood and oatmeal is said to have originated in Manchester, but though four locals volunteered, all have since cried off. The Greater Manchester Council spokesman tells me: "There are a lot of red faces here at the moment, but no one else steps forward I might have to - and I can't stand the stuff".

## Double trouble

There is a snag to the new scheme designed to stop unwanted junk mail dropping through your letter-box. A colleague who registered with the Mailing Preference Service and asked them to kill his junk post has received, within a week, two identical acknowledgments bearing the message: "We would like to remind you that it may be up to three months before your request has been actioned by all subscribers to the scheme."

## Flour power

Saudi Arabia is determined to grow its own wheat according to Bob Bergland, a former United States Agriculture Secretary, even though it may cost more than five times as much as airfreighted grain from the United States. "It is a matter of national security with them," Bergland says. "They want the wheat, no matter what the price. They will be growing it in Saudi Arabia. It would be like trying to grow wheat in Phoenix". So madly expensive is the scheme, indeed, that already several American farming companies, as well as French and German ones, are looking into it.

## To the rescue

Fairey Allday Marine pushed the boat out for the Victory '83 naming ceremony at Hamble during the week. The acknowledgements at the back of the programme give thanks: "For the Victory Wine, for the Victory Cocktail... for the Beer, for the Champagne, for the Rum, for the Victory Cake" and lastly "St John Ambulance for First Aid".

## Disorient Express

Ray McVay will not be pleased to learn that someone else knows what he used his American Express card for last month. His account was erroneously sent to a PHScribe, but American Express were unbothered. "It's the mechanical stuff," their public relations director said, without a hint of shame.

Tesco supermarkets sell matchboxes decorated with the full achievement of the arms of Tesco, which include badgers as symbols of good housekeeping. Also on the boxes appears the surprising legend: "Made in USSR". I wonder whether there is any point in badgering Tesco about this?

# After Jay, a mission to entertain

"As Queen Victoria said, we are not interested in the possibilities of defeat." Mr Jonathan Aitken opined yesterday. This display of bluster, delivered less than three weeks after his boardroom coup toppled Peter Jay as chief executive of the disastrous breakfast television station TV-am, should not disguise the depths in which Aitken now finds himself.

Though he may protest frequently that his appointment is temporary, and that he will soon return gladly to the Tory back benches, Aitken's personality is central to the TV-am crisis.

Two popular portraits of Jonathan Aitken are doing the rounds at the moment. One depicts him as an ambitious reformed playboy from a wealthy background whose present position at the helm of TV-am, after a messy but wholly necessary coup against Peter Jay, is simply the natural product of the combination of boundless talent and gaping opportunity.

The second presents the Conservative MP for Thanet East as the nouveau riche son regaining his roots. Forget the Beaverbrook background, which says this school, was not worth as much as most think; Aitken's real talent is for making money, principally by persuading wealthy and titled Arabs to part with their soft-earned petrodollars.

Far from being a philanthropic rescue of the wreck of the "mission to explain" broadcasting philosophy of which Jay was so proud, this theory runs, Aitken's elevation is simply part of the game plan formulated by TV-am's major institutional investors from day one: give the public faces of the Famous Five their head and then, if they disagree themselves, send in the shock troops and a bagful of audience-grabbing bread and circus.

The current misconceptions about Aitken say as much about him as the facts. He is not an automatic in-line recipient of Beaverbrook money. Aitken, whose father, William, was Beaverbrook's nephew, received nothing in the old man's will, though his business partner, Timothy Aitken, Beaverbrook's grandson, was left a trust fund.

Aitken's millionaire status stems from his assiduous cultivation of Arab business, initially through a

The Times Portrait: Jonathan Aitken



branch of the ill-fated Sister Walker. Now, Aitken Eume, the financial services company which he and Timothy control, is a stock market favourite, and one in which Aitken (English), the private family company behind the 16.7 per cent largest single stake in TV-am, has a considerable share.

These holdings have led outsiders to believe that it is the breadth of Aitken's financial interests, and their dependence upon the Arabs, that may provoke the wrath of the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

Michael Deakin, the programme controller, and target of Anna Ford's talk of treachery at the time of Jay's fall, and Kevin Sim, the features editor, are, with Aitken, descendants of the generation of young programme-makers brought into ITV by Donald Beaverbrook in the 1960s. The Beaverbrook school promotes intense, almost masonic loyalty to one another. Beaverbrook himself flatly refuses to discuss Aitken with newspapers except to say: "He is still a very good friend".

Aitken's greatest success so far, then, has not been his boardroom

So while the station may well have such a mission to entertain, what it certainly has not is a franchise to pursue it.

TV-am has set up to be a news and current affairs station. It could be that re-run of Tom and Jerry would give it the audience to make it viable - or, put another way, provide a service which the public would want to watch in considerable numbers - but this is not what the guardians of broadcasting taste in Brighton Road have desired.

The prospect, therefore, of the authority stripping TV-am of its franchise because it has failed to meet its broadcasting obligations, and it is a prospect serious enough to merit deep discussion in Camden Lock.

"According to one leading member of the TV-am camp the question the IBA may have to face is simple: 'Would it be willing to throw 400 people out of work because more viewers have decided to tune in to TV-am?'"

In other words, TV-am's down market plunge has a double-pronged purpose: to win the viewers and advertising revenue which, with a bout of cost-cutting and possibly redundancies, will make the station financially viable. And to gain roughly such a large audience that the IBA could not be seen to take the station off the air without a public outcry.

Recent traumas apart, there are many waiting in the wings for a chance of a crack at the breakfast slot. ITN, which desperately wanted the franchise, has been vocal in making it known behind the scenes that it is willing to enter into partnership with TV-am over news coverage.

Many of the losers in the original battle for the breakfast franchise feel that even with audiences of around 400,000 it would still be possible to make money out of the medium. If the IBA were to tire of TV-am's turmoil, it could easily turn to the Pearson Longman consortium which ran Jay's close second for the franchise and then neatly turned the experience of making the bid into expanding the film and television group Goldcrest.

That has pushed TV-am into its early crisis is not just the paucity of its audience but the conspicuous excess of the Camden Lock studios and their operating costs. The colour supplements may have ogled over the fancy architecture of Camden Lock but many of TV-am's backers were appalled when they finally walked through the door to encounter the futuristic atrium describing the passage of the sun from east to west.

Aitken has surmounted one crisis to face another. One crumb of comfort for him lies in the fact that should the IBA take the ultimate sanction against the station it will be damning itself as much as Camden Lock. The IBA, as much as Aitken, needs TV-am to prosper, and still save its face.

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# CND v MoD: the next round

As Joan Ruddock, CND's chairman, flies off to the United States for a lecture tour, and Michael Heseltine recovers from his visit to the Berlin Wall, both sides face the question of where they go next in the nuclear debate.

For CND, which has taken something of a bashing from Mr Heseltine since his appointment as Defence Secretary three months ago, the numbers on the streets of Scotland and by-ways of Berkshire were heartening, but still leave the battle to be won. For Mr Heseltine, the problem of sustaining the Government's campaign is, if anything, worse.

The most significant of the weekend's events may not be in the end the 60,000 to 70,000 people CND turned out in well disciplined demonstrations. Rather it may be President Reagan's announcement of the abandonment of the immediate "zero option", and the much smaller number of perhaps 2,000 campaigners who turned up on Thursday, before the human chain, to blockade Greenham Common and the Burghfield nuclear weapons factory.

President Reagan's proposal to allow limited numbers of missiles on each side brings us one step closer to the certainty that, whatever the outcome of the Geneva disarmament talks, there will be at least some cruise missiles stationed at

Greenham by December. And CND's small groups of blockaders, who knew they risked arrest, showed that there is an increasing, if still small, number of people prepared to take action against the missiles if they come.

Burghfield may not have been much of a test. No organized effort was made to get the workforce in. The factory was due to work only half the day, and few workers attempted to run the blockade. At Greenham Common, Thames Valley police showed that if CND and the women campaigners can train for non-violent direct action, so can the police, with a new tactic of peeling back the seated ranks of demonstrators to allow 17 coaches carrying 800 construction and military personnel into and out of the base.

The Burghfield blockade was, however, an important psychological boost to the blockaders, who will be out again at the Upper Heyford USAF base in May. The prospect of demonstrators equipped with walkie-talkies pursuing the huge cruise missile convoys round the countryside or awaiting their return to base after an exercise is not one that the authorities can relish.

Not that such tactics are by any means the only shot in CND's armoury. The peace movement, of which CND is only a part, is

# Benn, really just another Benito

It is, I believe, extremely confusing to apply the term fascism equally to national socialism and to the Mediterranean ideas of authoritative government espoused by Mussolini and Franco. Of course, there are common features, and common dangers. But these should not be allowed to obscure the very real differences.

The essential feature of Mussolini's fascism was the corporatism. The entire economic activity of the state was to be organized into corporations, subordinate to the state and answerable to it.

These corporations would be composed of syndicates, representing the interests of workers, employers and professionals. Through the complex process of representation, all grievances would be removed, and conflicts resolved, within the corporation. Hence, if the syndicates - such as the trade unions, and the associations of managers, no other form of representation would be necessary. Government could be carried on by a small elite of dedicated professionals. Unlike national socialism, fascism did not set out to destroy autonomous institutions, and attempted to reconcile its belief in a command economy with a measure of free association at every level of society.

All very naive, of course, but remarkably similar to the political philosophy of Mr Benn, and very different from anything that has been advocated or pursued by Mrs Thatcher. Unlike Mr Benn and the fascists, Mrs Thatcher has perceived that trade unions are not normally representative of the interests of their members, that representation cannot, in general, occur outside strong parliamentary institutions resistant to rapid constitutional change, and that the law exists precisely to curtail the power of corporations, so that the individual grievance may be heard, and the individual life find its purpose.

Fascism in Italy was doomed by the alliance with national socialism. In Spain a similar system of government escaped destruction, and provided one of the more flexible forms of authoritarian control. Although imposed by military force, it was able to evolve to the point where parliamentary democracy could be initiated along with the constitutional monarchy. To it, we should take comfort from, the example of Mrs Thatcher. It shows that Mr Benn's philosophy ever does gain wide acceptance, we might yet recover from its imposition.

Bennite fascism therefore holds out a promise that neither national nor international socialism has been able to fulfil. If we have to choose between these three evils, then no doubt we should vote for Mr Benn. Far better, however, to remain with Mrs Thatcher.

The author is Editor of The Salisbury Review.

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DISARMING SIGNALS

The various anti-nuclear demonstrations in Britain and other west European countries over the weekend, Mr Gromyko's press conference on Saturday and the responses from Mr Francis Pym and other Nato ministers have all contributed in their very different ways to the new war of nerves on disarmament that is being conducted between the Soviet Union and the West.

This means that the prospects for Mr Reagan's new initiative last week on intermediate range missiles will depend not simply on the merits of the proposal but also on the signals that accompany it. The signals that the West should be sending should all be indicating steadiness of purpose.

If this strategy is pursued the response to Mr Gromyko should be calm. There was never the slightest chance that the Soviet leaders would respond to Mr Reagan's proposal for an interim arrangement, short of the zero option, with an immediate expression of delight.

ate expression of delight. They intend to negotiate as toughly as the West should. What matters more than the particular criticisms expressed by Mr Gromyko is the readiness to take up Mr Reagan's suggestion that the Geneva negotiations should resume earlier than previously intended.

That is a favourable signal from Moscow. In return, most Nato spokesmen have sent back the right signal by not becoming too indignant over Mr Gromyko's rejection. To have reacted otherwise would not only have been to read too much into his remarks, but might also have given the impression that the West was quite ready to have an excuse for not negotiating seriously.

There was one comment of Mr Gromyko's, however, that the United States should take note of. That was his rebuke of Mr Reagan for using undiplomatic language when he referred to the Soviet Union as an "evil empire" in a speech last month to a group of American clergymen in Florida. It is not that it is improper or unfair to be beastly to the Soviet Union. It is rather that to be beastly in what have been widely judged to be extravagant terms shortly before launching a major disarmament initiative is poor tactics.

There is no reason to believe that either of those impressions would be correct. Not for the first time, the President was probably simply letting himself go without thought of the wider audience. The West's negotiating position is not a weak one unless it is assumed that the strength of public opinion in Europe to the new missiles is such that the United States would not be able

to site any of them in western Europe even if there was no agreement at Geneva. That is the impression that the anti-nuclear movements would wish to give.

They have managed to attract a good many people to their various demonstrations over the weekend. This confirms that there is still some strong popular feeling over the missiles. But is it popular feeling that is likely to be politically effective? For that to be so, the protests would have to weaken the resolve of governments, make it physically impossible for the missiles to be installed, or so arouse public opinion that it would become politically impossible for any democratically elected government to proceed.

There is no sign that the anti-nuclear movements would be able to achieve any of those purposes. In Britain there is still a majority opposed to having any cruise missiles here, but it is by no means impossible for the Government to win the battle for public opinion before the end of the year provided that it remembers that the people whom it needs principally to convince are those who are opposed to unilateral nuclear disarmament but who are none the less not persuaded of the need for cruise. The opinion polls show that there are a good many people who come into this category.

All governments in the west should also be fortified by the experience of Chancellor Kohl in winning reelection in Germany without weakening his position on disarmament. There is no reason for governments to be too scared of public opinion provided that it is made clear to the people of Europe, as it should be to the Soviet Union, that the United States is negotiating with every intention of reaching a reasonable settlement. For that the right signals have to be sent, keeping the temperature cool while the nerve remains steady.

THE CUTTING-OUT OF THE KEREN

As a feat of naval impudence, the singeing of Jim Slater's beard may rank beside Drake's singeing of the more extensive growth sported by King Philip of Spain, or with the exploits of Cornwallis or Keyes. Whether the dash and despatch shown in the seizure of the HMS Keren was wisely exercised in the minefields of maritime labour relations remains to be seen. The National Union of Seamen has put up a deafening barrage in reply to the assault, but seamen all over the world may be inclined to think twice about striking over an issue which has few direct implications elsewhere.

The merchant navy is still struggling with the worst recession in maritime trade for 50 years and the numbers of British ships and jobs at sea have declined sharply as a result. There are now well below 1,000 vessels trading under the red ensign, and the number of qualified seamen looking for work has risen to a record 3,500. The union showed in a successful strike two years ago that it could still bring heavy industrial pressure to bear on the owners, but its capacity to damage the national economy is much less than it used to be.

The case of HMS Keren is an exceptional one. She and her

civilian crew were requisitioned for the Falklands campaign and then released to the North Sea ferry service again. But the Royal Navy has recently bought her for further use in the South Atlantic, and had entered negotiations for her to be under the management of the former owners, with the existing crew. During the war, the latter were paid at the rates they had received at home, with a bonus for war service. Rates for ordinary deepwater service are rather lower than for ferry service, and there is less time off.

Since the ship's new career was to last for the foreseeable future, without the special circumstances that existed during the fighting, the Navy wanted pay to be at the usual rate for such work. The union objected to the crew having to suffer a drop in pay. For different work under a different owner, there was no reason why the crew should continue to receive the same rates of pay. As owner, the Navy seems on the face of it to have had every right to make a change of plan when it proved difficult to reach agreement on the arrangement originally intended. The expense of sustaining the Falklands Islands in the long run is too high for there to be any case for incurring unnecessary costs. But whatever the Navy's

rights, the clandestine seizure of the ship risked stirring up feelings which are generally better left at rest. Trade union susceptibilities about the use of the armed forces to influence the outcome of a labour dispute or negotiation are long-standing and understandable. It may become necessary in some circumstances, to preserve essential service or public order, but it is prudent to resort to it only when the need is urgent. The negotiations between the Blue Star Line and the unions have been conducted too much out of the public eye for it to be possible to judge whether the union was being deliberately obstructive, or merely seeking to reach the best terms realistically obtainable. It is claimed that a shortage of ships has meant soldiers having to stay in the Falklands beyond their term. Clearly it is operationally desirable to have efficient arrangements to bring troops home on leave. The Navy was reclaiming its own property, and there must be an overriding national interest in the armed forces not being denied possession of their property by an industrial dispute. But the goodwill of the merchant navy, which was so important in the Falklands campaign, is not something to be jeopardized without good reason.

ACCOUNTANTS AS GAMEKEEPERS

Today the corporate state acquires a new limb. Working life begins for the Audit Commission, a posthumous addition to the list of quasi-autonomous government bodies from Mr Michael Heseltine in his former capacity as Secretary of State for the Environment. The commission is one of a family of devices for squeezing the £25,000 million-a-year cost of local government.

First a complex and much-maligned reform of the rate support grant was, in theory, to open up council spending to better-informed public view. Then Mr Heseltine promoted the involvement in municipal affairs of local business and chambers of commerce, armed with new estimates of council costs. Lastly the 1982 Local Government Finance Act produced the commission, which is supposed to introduce both the personnel and methods of private sector accountancy into the audit of councils' books. The original, and admirable, intention was that of revealing to electors the arcana of town hall finance in order to make the machine of local democracy work more decisively. In practice central government has been paying nipping attention to the details of

local administration in a way that might eventually subvert choices made through the local ballot box.

The commission is neither Whitehall fish nor municipal fowl; its members, who include several prominent councillors, are government appointees and its auditors' code of practice has to be approved by Parliament. This administrative untidiness is probably necessary, for the commission is to operate in the border territory between central and local government where the boundary is shifting and the ground is subject to grand rhetorical claims. The result is that the commission's charter is a compromise between the good, Millite principle that a central authority is necessary to transfer from one local authority to another the "best practice" and the worrying, modern belief that the fiduciary relationship between a council and its electors needs the constant supervision of a roving band of chartered accountants.

The commission absorbs the District Audit Service, and inherits a mixed legacy. Over the years this corps of civil service accountants built up a reputation as a check on municipal corruption. More recently, however,

they seemed unable to come to grips with the growth inside local government of a class of councillors themselves professionally involved in the public service, the breakdown of management disciplines, and the inefficiencies built in during that sustained period of growth in staff and outlays between the early 1960s and the late 1970s. Public trust in local government has suffered as a result.

The commissioners must decide whether they will answer to a Secretary of State and his need for political prestige or whether they will address this deeper sense of a collapse in municipal consensus. The latter is more difficult. For it involves accountants in a task for which they are professionally unqualified; disingenuousness or "lack of cost effectiveness" that stems directly from the legitimate political decisions of councillors. There is a line between unnecessary expenditure which results from management failures and councils' conscious use of their discretionary powers. The commission will establish itself only when it musters the courage to tell itself, central government and the public that such a line can rightly be drawn in unpopular places.

West and Russia in arms balance

From Professor Michael Pentz and others

Sir, We write to welcome your editorial recognition (March 25) that in the present stage of the East-West confrontation, Western security depends on increasing rather than reducing security on the Soviet side.

It has too long been regarded as axiomatic that we are somehow safer if we keep the Russians guessing about Western capabilities and intentions. In present circumstances, when the greatest danger of nuclear war is perhaps that it might result from an accident or miscalculation, uncertainty is a major cause of insecurity.

In this context we regard President Reagan's plan to develop "super-weapons" to destroy missiles in space as being not only technically unworkable but also politically destabilising to the extreme. To the extent that his Nato allies will be capable of functioning they will be a menace to our security. We fear, also, that their development will make it harder, if not impossible, to reach any agreement on arms control or reduction. It will increase the risks of any future confrontation.

We believe the President has embarked upon this dangerous path in the hope of securing some short-term political gains within the United States. May we express the hope that his Nato allies will try to convince him that he has much more to lose in terms of European confidence?

Yours sincerely, M. J. PENTZ, Chairman, TOM KIBTZ, Vice Chairman, GUY O'NEILL, Secretary, Honorary Secretary, Scientists Against Nuclear Arms, 112 Newport Road, New Bradwell, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, March 26.

Post-coital pill

From Mr J. M. Fennis

Sir, Your Social Services Correspondent today (March 21) reports a legal opinion that "post-coital birth control will be lawful, and judged by the courts as contraception rather than abortion, up to the maximum period of implantation". The author of the opinion is said to believe that a "fertilized egg" is not a child before implantation but becomes a child upon implantation.

Such a belief would be as foreign to common speech as to science or reason. But it is not more strange than his reported belief that a woman carrying an unimplanted embryo does not have "carriage" and cannot miscarry (even after an ectopic pregnancy?). Or than his belief that there can be contraception after conception (a belief made the more absurd by the test tube baby practitioners' own descriptions of "human conception in vitro").

The law on these matters was truthfully expressed by Glanville Williams in 1958: "... English law... regards any interference with pregnancy, however early it may take place, as criminal, unless for therapeutic reasons. The foetus is a human life to be protected by the criminal law from the moment when the ovum is fertilized".

By 1978, Professor Williams was saying that there is "no reason" why the courts should not adopt the legal opinion now reported by your Social Services Correspondent (an opinion which all agree finds no support in the Abortion Act 1967). But he left his startling change of view unrecorded and unexplained, remarking simply that "no one who uses or fits IUDs (intra-uterine devices) supposes that they are illegal". Neither he nor anyone else has given any reason to doubt that his earlier statement accurately expressed both the law and the law's solid rationale. There is in fact very substantial legal and medico-legal authority for his earlier view, with which even the Lane committee report in 1974 agreed. To set against that weight of authority and reason there is nothing save some very recent practice, based on convenience and untutored "suppositions" of (and/or indifference to) legality.

If the law is to be changed to deprive the human being of just protection during its first two weeks of life, let the change be shamelessly enacted, not insinuated by falsifying legal history and our common language. Yours faithfully, J. M. FENNIS, Reader in Law, University College, Oxford, March 21.

Citizens of Europe

From Mr Brian McCluskey

Sir, It is curious and saddening to see *The Times* devoting a leading article (March 17) to supporting the continuation of a manifest injustice, the failure of the British Government to enfranchise those of its citizens living in other member states of the European Community in time for the European Parliament elections in May of next year, for example by supporting Lord Bethell's Bill in the House of Lords.

*The Times* argues, unacceptably, that it would be simpler and more in line with the spirit of the treaties if European citizens could vote as such, i.e. wherever they reside in the Community. The fact is, however, that many of the member states of the Community attach more importance to the principle of nationality than to that of residence (and not only in electoral matters - students of private international law know that this is a fundamental difficulty in

Liberty of subject and Police Bill

From Mr Geoffrey Bindman

Sir, The Chairman of the Magistrates' Association (March 30) seeks to reassure us that the new powers in the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill to detain suspects for up to 96 hours without charge will be exercised benignly and that the vast majority of suspects will still be charged or released within 24 hours.

At present it is the right of all those arrested to be charged or released without delay (see, for example, the remarks of the present Master of the Rolls in *R v Holmes*, ex p. *Sherman and another* [1981] 2 All E.R. 612).

The Bill will remove this right, substituting discretion in the police and the magistrates to free us in less than 96 hours if they so choose. At our peril we surrender our liberties in exchange for the benevolence of authority.

Yours faithfully, GEOFFREY BINDMAN, Bindman & Partners, solicitors, 1 Euston Road, King's Cross, NW1.

be embodied thereby, and no one will gainsay it".

If clause 54 becomes law, the remedy must lie with the judges, who have a discretion to exclude any evidence the prejudicial effect of which outweighs its probative value. Consideration of its probative value must include consideration of the reliability of its original source. Hence judges will have to enquire into the source of the original information. If this is not satisfactory, or if the data necessary to form a judgment is not available, such evidence would have to be excluded even though prima facie admissible under clause 54.

Yours faithfully, DAVID WILLIAMS, 57 Cyncoed Road, Cyncoed, Cardiff, March 30.

From Mr Peter Large Sir, If the police are going to enjoy access to files on people compiled by medical practitioners, social workers, schoolteachers and the like, will those on whom the files are kept, or their parents or guardians, be allowed access to them to ensure that their contents are correct?

Will not individual rights be measurably diminished if the former is allowed while the latter is denied? Yours sincerely, PETER LARGE, 14 Birch Way, Warrington, Surrey, March 27.

Probation rewards

From Miss Audrey G. Hallam

Sir, I should like to put Peter Evans's article, "Probation at £87 a week" (March 28), into context. The impression given is that offenders are offered paid employment almost as a reward for committing offences in the first place, and this is certainly not so.

My quote, "employment is the best therapy we have ever had," is accurate but this therapy is only used when clients demonstrate that they have started on the quite difficult venture of living within society without committing crimes. Our employment schemes also provide supervisory posts for unemployed people who have never been involved in crime.

The lucky offenders who get a place on our employment schemes are those who have stopped offending. Many of them have demonstrated this by doing voluntary work or, in the case of "Steve" quoted in the article, by educating staff preparing themselves for rehabilitation.

The published photograph

Lesson of the 1930s

From Dr Forrest Capie

Sir, It is surely Mr Stewart (March 21) who has his facts wrong. Apart from several errors of detail, the impetus of his letter is that certain policies, notably protection and devaluation, affected recovery. Three principal policies were pursued in the early thirties: trade protection, exchange-rate management and easy monetary conditions. The first two had little to do with recovery. The third was not so much a policy as a set of circumstances accepted and promoted by government.

A nominal tariff of 10 per cent *ad valorem* was initially imposed in 1932 and soon raised to 20 per cent. However, when effective rates of protection are calculated for British industry for the period, the interesting result that emerges is that the two sectors usually credited with having made the essential contribution to recovery (iron and steel, and construction) are found to have been disadvantaged by the tariff. Construction was undoubtedly important, but protection actually held its contribution back.

Fine arts courses

From Mr Anthony Caro

Sir, The withdrawal of validation by the Council for National Academic Awards of the sculpture course at St Martin's School of Art is liable to have far-reaching consequences in art education.

For over a quarter of a century St Martin's sculpture under Frank Martin followed a fiercely independent, always to the disapproval and often downright hostility of art authority both outside and within the school. Despite its international recognition for years as a centre for new sculpture and for new sculptural thinking, it was never approved of, or accorded more than reluctant acceptance (witness its failure to gain postgraduate status).

In the last three years, under Tim

showed a supervisor with a former offender but only the supervisor is paid. The models shown are made voluntarily by the residents in a probation hostel and will be sold to raise funds for suitable charities.

New supervisors take parties of offenders out working voluntarily for disadvantaged members of the community. The offenders are not even paid expenses but they willingly tend hundreds of gardens in the area and do many small, kindly deeds, resulting in a file of "thank-you" letters from the recipients.

In 1982 the service supervised 5,664 offenders; 164 of them were offered employment under the Manpower Services Commission's scheme. Each job was of specific benefit to the community, was approved by the relevant trade union, and would not otherwise have been carried out.

Yours faithfully, AUDREY G. HALLAM, Deputy Chief Probation Officer, South Yorkshire Probation and After Care Service, 11a Arundel Gate, Sheffield, March 28.

Devaluation in 1931 was followed by exchange-rate management through the exchange equalisation account in 1932. But most of Britain's trading partners (almost all the Empire and many others - 32 in total) realised their surpluses with sterling in 1931 or 1932. And calculations of the effective exchange rate support the view that there could have been little gain from this movement in sterling. "Cheap money" is the most interesting possibility.

Real rates of interest were close to zero in 1932-33, and together with changes in financial institutions they certainly played an important part. But here again recent research suggests that low rates were not a result of policy but rather the product of recovery. The conclusion must be that policy did little to effect recovery.

Yours faithfully, FORREST CAPIE, The City University, Business School, Barbican Crescent, Barbican, EC2, March 28.

Scott, St Martin's sculpture course changed radically, and in a direction with which I am not in sympathy, but it nevertheless continued to offer a positive alternative to the many less rigorous and easygoing courses in sculpture available to students.

The axing at St Martin's follows close on the recent threatened removal of Winchester School of Arts with its strong painting course. Such actions will soon leave the student without the choice of any fine-art departments with focus, and will edge art teachers towards compromise and worldly wisdom. "Art made tongue-tied by authority" augurs ill for future art in Britain.

Yours faithfully, ANTHONY CARO, 111 Frognal, Hampstead, NW3, March 29.

Causes of famine in Ethiopia

From the President of Magdalen College, Oxford

Sir, The Ethiopian Government cannot be blamed for the weather and its efforts to relieve suffering caused by the partial failure of the winter rains deserve support. In winter rains policy for the future, however, the government should be encouraged to alter its investment programme, switching priorities from capital intensive industry to the peasant agricultural sector, where 85 per cent of the labour force is employed.

Since the revolution of 1974 the production of food has increased less than half as fast as the population. The shortage of domestic supplies has been made up partly by eating less and partly by importing more food imports have risen by more than 22 per cent a year over the period.

Clearly none of these tendencies could continue indefinitely and it has taken only a relatively mild drought to expose the fragility of the country's economy. Yours faithfully, KEITH GRIFFIN, President, Magdalen College, Oxford, March 28.

From Mr Jon Bennett Sir, Mr Witherington (March 28) holds that the Ethiopian Government cannot be held responsible for the climatic conditions leading to the worst drought since 1970-73. He neglects to mention, however, that in Tigray Province, the worst hit area, government troops are presently engaged in heavy air and ground attacks on the civilian population in western Tigray whilst at the same time launching an international appeal for more than a million drought victims in the same region. Already more than 50,000 people have been forced to evacuate their homes as a direct result of this offensive, which has had little mention in the western media.

I do not make such allegations lightly. Having spent three months in Tigray recently, guided by the Relief Society of Tigray, the only organization with access to the majority of drought/war victims in the province, I can certainly vouch for the devastating human costs of deliberate "scorched earth" incursions of recent years, where the already meagre crops of poor peasants have been flattened by the Soviet-supplied tanks of an army intent upon rooting out the so-called "handis" of the Tigray People's Liberation Front.

I would not wish to denigrate any useful work which Save the Children Fund and other non-government organizations are doing in Wollo and adjoining provinces. Nonetheless, a great deal more attention should be paid by governments and agencies alike to the available channels in Sudan for reaching those drought victims inaccessible to the Ethiopian authorities.

Finally, we should ask why it is that a government which spends billions of dollars a year on fighting its internal wars - undoubtedly in lieu of an acceptable political solution - should now be compounding its duplicity by requesting relief funds from the West. Yours faithfully, JON BENNETT, Department of Sociology, Durham University, March 29.

Political extravagance

From Mr Edward Liddell

Sir, The Prime Minister's warning about the extravagance of Labour and Alliance election promises (report, March 28) should be heard alongside the austerity measures that the French Socialist Government is being forced to take after only two years of similar but less ambitious policies.

In the case of Labour these policies will be coupled to a return to rule by permission of the trades unions.

The outcome would be horrific. Yours faithfully, EDWARD LIDDELL, 77 Swanland Road, Hessle, North Humberside.

Male midwives

From Mrs Molly Townsend

Sir, William Cobbett would have none of them. Speaking of the growing practice, in the early nineteenth century, of employing male accoucheurs, he wrote:

"But who can perform this office like women, who have for these occasions a language and sentiments which seem to have been invented for the purpose? And be they what they may as to general demeanour and character, they have all, upon these occasions, one common feeling, and that so amiable, so excellent, as to admit of no adequate description. These, we may be well assured, are the proper attendants on these occasions."

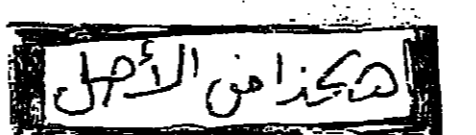
Yours faithfully, MOLLY TOWNSEND, Johnsons Farm, Sheat, Petersfield, Hampshire, March 29.

From Mr E. J. Gollop

Sir, Delivery boys? Yours faithfully, E. J. GOLLOP, The Lodge, Cranlands, Devizes, Wiltshire, March 22.

From Mr George MacDonald Ross

Sir, In another of the older professions, we have never had any qualms about referring to Socrates as a midwife. Yours faithfully, GEORGE MACDONALD ROSS, The University of Leeds, Department of Philosophy, Leeds, West Yorkshire, March 28.





THE ARTS

Theatre in the United States: Irving Wardle, in the first of two reports, investigates the current state of play on Broadway

Martian tongue fighting back

Say what you like against the long-run system, it has its advantages for the long-absent spectator. Last year I quit New York in enraged conviction that I had missed the boat with *Nine* and Harvey Fierstein's *Torch Song Trilogy*; but everything comes to him who waits, as Mr Fierstein himself would agree after advancing from East Village obscurity and Off-Broadway to his present location (The Little Theatre) bang next door to Sardi's, in the first homosexual play ever to get a foothold on Broadway.



Raul Julia with the Pink Ladies in the Grand Canal number from *Nine*; Noble Shropshire's teasing Mephisto (top) in *Faust*; and Keith Carradine, with Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy asserting simple old American values, in *Foxfire*

"I want more in life than meeting a pretty face and sitting down on it." Boiled down to its bones, *Nine* (46th Street Theatre) is another "artist's block" entertainment, showing a desperate film director visited by inspirational just in time to escape retribution from his becker's heavies. But it is not for its plot synopsis that Arthur Kopit and Maury Yeston's musical carried off a catalogue of 1982 awards; and for the first half-hour you could mistake it for a salute to the Italian rag trade.

One solitary male (Raul Julia) is gradually joined by a dotting orchestra of ladies, in a stage picture extracting the maximum severity and maximum voluptuousness from the contrast of black and white. *Nine*, taking its cue from Fellini's *8 1/2*, punningly refers both to the great man's next film and to the fact that emotionally he has not yet reached the age of 10, a fact articulated in the person of Mr Julia's juvenile alter ego who enacts his monastic upbringing and is also on hand, when the director attempts suicide, to reveal the chosen weapon as a toy pistol.

Between these two events we see Guido (Mr Julia) distributing his lying favours between his wife and the other suffering ladies while wracking his brain for an idea to justify the producer's investment. The idea of Casanova finally takes his fancy, and the black and white stage explodes into a gaudy baroque carnival of pander dresses, peacock page boys, and a gross parody of his own past affairs performed under the mortified gaze of the ladies involved.

As a parable on the hazards of artistic self-cannibalization, *Nine* makes its point with the clarity of a feather dipped in acid. However, in the world this show occupies, anything approaching a moral point would immediately shrivel into a dowdy cliché. Tommy Tune's production is about style, and in particular it is a New York joke on the Italian *bella figura*. It is only in some of Mr Yeston's numbers that direct emotion disturbs the glassy surface; and even the score consists mainly of Italianate pastiche from lewd tarantellas and Venetian boat songs to *opera seria* recitative. For sheer technical accomplishment, and individual virtuoso performances like those of Anita Morris and Liliana Montevecchi, it is a marvel; but at the end, and despite Mr Julia's heavy-lidded charm, the real hero is William Ivey Long's wardrobe.

*Nine* no doubt, will surface in London in due course. Of Susan Cooper and Hume Cronyn's *Foxfire*, the probability is that it will live out its acclaimed life at the Ethel Barrymore and then fade away. Despite its English co-authorship, this "hillybilly *Our Town*" belongs to the category of Broadway shows that bring nationally revered stars together to assert the simple old American values. In this case, Jessica Tandy and Mr Cronyn are celebrating the indissolubility of marriage; and it is one mark of the play's quality that not until well into the first act do you realize that the husband is already dead.

The partners first appear, against David Mitchell's dream-like backdrop of the Appalachian mountains, chatting, squabbling and going about their business on the remote farm as they have done for the past 30 years. Mr Cronyn is apt to find urgent business in the orchard whenever visitors show up and try to buy his property, but it is only when their folk-singer son, Dillard (Keith Carradine) comes home dropping dark hints about his wife ("the fastest credit card in the South") that the question of marital loyalty sorts out the ghosts from the flesh and blood. *Foxfire* is the name of a luminous lichen found on dead trees in the Appalachian forests, and it is an exact metaphor for

what this piece has to say about continuity and betrayal; and the fact that Dillard, in his cream soda cowboy suit, is more of a ghost than the lingering figure of his father, who preserves a stubborn existence even outside the memories of his family, and down-to-earth poetry, and domestic aggression of Tandy, and Cronyn's performances would obliterate any trace of whimsicality in the text; but feyness never enters into it, and its games with time in a continuous dramatic present would look technically dazzling in a less unassuming piece of work.

Premieres have not been thick on the ground in the past weeks, but one worth mentioning is Goethe's *Faust*, which lately achieved its first full American production at the Greenwich Village address of the Classic Stage Company, bringing that outfit its greatest success in its 16-year existence.

The work of Christopher Marlowe (CSC's founding director), this production is clearly the creation of a man who knows the modern German stage, and also how far he can push the New York public. The very stage of CSC suggests a New York street, a black carpeted combat area pitted with grills periodically discharging smoke from the infernal sewers. Among the first thing they disgorge is Noble Shropshire's Mephisto, a dinner-served tease with a flickering tongue and campy giggle who would be thoroughly at home in the *Torch Song* ghetto.

There are no such local equivalents to the figure of Faust himself; and the production addresses this problem by splitting him between three actors respectively embodying the sensualist, the magician, and the finally redeemed wanderer. The point of this is undermined by the production's evident assumption that New Yorkers are interested only in spectacle, which leads to a high-energy acceleration of Philip Wayne's text into a senseless verbal pile-up. Part I, where plot is paramount, is the main casualty of this approach. Part II, with its departure from Christian legend into Greek myth, alchemy, and forecs of the Faustian science of today, is a revelation, and Mr Marlowe's flow of stage imagery, from the transformation of an ocean into Helen's robe to the defeat of Mephisto's death-heads under a bombardment of white roses, leaves you feeling that after Goethe there was nothing left for the expressionists and the surrealists to invent.

Concerts

AAM/Hogwood Barbican

"Mostly Mozart" is under way at the Barbican: a long holiday weekend of concerts, films and fun events spilling out of the main concert hall and into the foyers. At last the centre is being brought to life, and if only somebody could fuse the public address system, it might be almost human.

What it can never be, of course, is anything like an eighteenth-century music room. Dropped into this wide, high box, the Academy of Ancient Music sounded brave, miniature and a little pathetic in their performance of the "Haffner" Symphony on Sunday afternoon. And because they were spatially out of their element, one was too much aware of the negative aspects of their historical style: the dubious intonation of the oboes, the sourness of the strings, the maddening half-audibility of Christopher Hogwood's continuo.

The effect altogether was a diminishing of the music. In the first movement Mr Hogwood's swaying motion did not so much awaken the symphony's freshness as sentimentalize it into classical pastiche, and there was something curiously pugnacious about the forceful drumming within this context of littleness, especially in the finale. That movement did, though, benefit from a formal clarity that was marked

throughout the concert, with daring changes of tone and texture that no larger ensemble could expect to accomplish.

As Mr Hogwood reminded us, in 1783 Mozart had the sympathy played as a frame for one of his concertos, its finale reached only after a great miscellany of other things had intervened. In the light of that precedent, it seemed a bit parsimonious to offer just an aria, and in any event I am not at all sure the practice of jigsawing symphonies is to be recommended. The only advantage here was that we had an opportunity to hear the pure musical water of Emma Kirby's soprano in "Voi avete un cor fedele", at least until a last phrase that did something very peculiar and ran amok.

The performance of Beethoven's First Symphony was much better. Only last week Mr Hogwood was remarking on this page about the great problems in attempting an authentic-style Beethoven, and it would obviously be absurd to suggest that those problems have all been solved. Nevertheless, the Academy's natural suppleness in the Andante revitalized a movement that can easily appear ponderous, and the busy finale was particularly effective for coming after a gently paced minuet. It was also good to hear Beethoven's vigour played as reckless musical intelligence for once and not Promethean heroism.

Paul Griffiths

RPO/Weller Festival Hall

Beethoven's Ninth needs, in these days of the appalling availability of music, a compelling reason to be heard. Easter Sunday provides one apt reason to survey the cosmos; the evident seriousness and commitment of Walter Weller, who conducted, and the excellent Brighton Festival Chorus, provided another justification for Sunday night's account. From the beginning, which in Weller's large-scale vision chose to look from Bruckner's symphonies backwards rather than from Mozart's D minor works forwards, the performance had immense sweep and fervour.

It was a little short on detail. Perhaps it is pedantic in the face of the tumultuous affirmations of the last movement (in which a fine quartet of soloists allowed us the rare privilege of hearing which notes they were singing) to criticize cellos and basses for lumpy, unclear playing in the recitative, or the bassoon for not sustaining the vital D in his counterpoint which allows the seventh-chord beneath it to make sense.

Weller always insisted on a heavy expressive weight, yet sometimes that was counter-

productive. When the first movement reaches its terrifying recapitulation in D major, the instability is increased by the use of a first-inversion chord: if the bass note simply cannot be heard the moment fails to register. The brass, at first encouraged to blare, covered up so much detail that Weller had to restrain them repeatedly, and there was a nasty scramble into the ritardando of the coda.

In the slow movement, few would advocate following Beethoven's metronome mark (alarmingly fast for an Adagio molto), but it is surely important to distinguish between the speeds of the two themes which are varied - the tempo makes a structural point. Weller gradually slowed the Adagio so that the speed at one point was twice as slow as Beethoven's marking and then accelerated without maintaining any clear distinction between the two tempi.

Through all that the orchestra played with more than adequate skill, and though the string sound was less than distinguished there were fine wind contributions, particularly from the outstanding first oboe (a guest principal) and fourth horn. By the close, the cosmos was indeed glimpsed, but darkly.

Nicholas Kenyon

Galleries

Self surrendered to pictorial essence

Lawrence Gowing  
Serpentine  
Drawing in the Italian Renaissance Workshop  
Victoria and Albert Museum  
Fiftieth Birthday Choice:  
Edward Lucie-Smith  
Leinster Fine Art



Gowing's use of the body in *Stretched against violet* (1980)

We like to define an artist's boundaries, partly through a wish to analyze and understand, partly through a need to feel secure. Within those boundaries the artist may be passively painting apples or actively directing women covered in blue paint to fling themselves on to canvas; the spectator then makes up his own mind about the quality and interest of the result.

The artists themselves usually deprecate the boundaries, but find it difficult to step forward and describe to the public exactly what they are doing. Nor should one expect them to. Lawrence Gowing, however, is known as much as a writer about painters and a teacher of painting as he is as an artist, so perhaps one might legitimately hope for a commentary on the pictorial journey that includes apples at several stages and ends with his own body strapped as a template for an assistant's silhouette. He says himself: "Seeing who I am, you might expect more words than painting." We are not given more words - the Serpentine Gallery is replete with paintings - but in the catalogue we are given a unique aesthetic and biographical commentary. Spectators with time and literary inclination will find it expands their experience of this absorbing retrospective, though it is a perfectly accessible exhibition without the commentary.

Gowing discovered he wanted to be a painter when he was at school, and when Kenneth Clark bought his first, romantic, self-portrait his father agreed he need not become an insurance clerk as had been arranged. He left Oakleigh Park for the intellectually serious, and privately exciting, world of Fitzroy Street and the so-called Euston Road painters. *Mare Street, Hackney* was painted when he was 19 in response to Graham Bell's idea for an exhibition of pictures of London, and is a careful, objective portrayal of the site of his father's failed drapery business. Portraits of Veronica Wedgwood, Julia Strachey, Philip Toyne, and John Russell give intimations of a scene in which his paramount influence was William Coldstream. "His view of art", Gowing writes, "was based on good sense; as the existence of painting depended on people wishing for it, he reasoned that it should represent subjects of interest to them." So portraits and landscapes, since this is England, developed as major themes, and for this exhibition works have been traced and collected that have never been shown before.

Retrospectives are tricky; they can drive one away from a painter previously admired in small doses. Here, the cumulative effect is enhancing. The paintings look much livelier gathered together than memory might lead one to expect. The experiments in abstraction, arising out of years of weekends and holidays immersed, painting, in woody

landscapes, appear more convincing not far from their companion images of trees and tunnelled paths than they do alone, or near other artist's abstracts. One can see them as not just part of what was happening in art at the time (early Sixties) but also as one way of responding to the ideas Gowing had "of the pictorial essence of the scene... as a fabric stretched out to the four corners of a canvas", which in turn links to a remark he once heard Coldstream make to a student: "Think of the canvas as a web with spaces between each touch. Then you can believe in getting them right."

Gowing's view - "The subject that surrounds and envelops the painter, who has no choice but to give himself up to it, still seems to me that irresistible reason for painting" - led at an early stage to a total submission on "the day when I first plunged deep into the woods and stripped off my clothes to make myself defenceless against the place". That experience foreshadowed the "submission and self-abandonment" of the recent body paintings. These are not so much a break away from as a leap-frog over. Coldstream's objective positiveness, leaving behind, for the moment at any rate, "the routine of distinguished sitters and attractive models" and asserting "I had better use the body I was stuck with, my own".

By taking that body to the canvas, a method of both attempting a manner of the "figural unity" Matisse sought and of openly declaring sex as the imperative centre of much life-painting, Gowing

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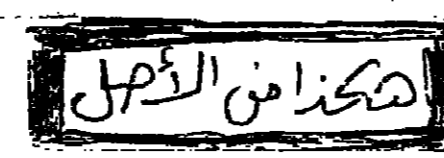
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Paddy Kitchen



# Stock Exchange Prices Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, March 21. Dealings End, April 8. Contango Day, April 11. Settlement Day, April 18.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

Stock	Price	Chge	Int	Gross	Div	Capit	Price	Chge	Gross	Div	Capit	Price	Chge	Gross	Div	Capit	Price	Chge	Gross	Div	Capit
Out-stand- ing	last	on	only	div	yield	Company	last	on	div	yield	Company	last	on	div	yield	Company	last	on	div	yield	Company
Stock	Friday	week	price	price	% P/E	Company	Friday	week	price	% P/E	Company	Friday	week	price	% P/E	Company	Friday	week	price	% P/E	Company
<b>BRITISH FUNDS</b>																					
10000	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70
<b>SHORTS</b>																					
10000	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70
<b>FINANCIAL TRUSTS</b>																					
10000	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70
<b>MINES</b>																					
10000	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70
<b>INVESTMENT TRUSTS</b>																					
10000	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70
<b>COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN</b>																					
10000	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70
<b>LOCAL AUTHORITIES</b>																					
10000	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70
<b>DOLLAR STOCKS</b>																					
10000	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70
<b>BANKS AND DISCOUNTS</b>																					
10000	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70
<b>BREWERS AND DISTILLERS</b>																					
10000	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70
<b>COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL</b>																					
10000	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70	0.04	10.14	9.94	10.14	10.70



## THE WEEK AHEAD by Jeremy Warner

# BAT profits expected to pass £800m

The company news season has a quiet patch this week with only one leading group reporting 1982 figures.

That company is BAT Industries, the international tobacco and retailing concern. On Thursday, it is expected to produce pretax profits for 1982 of between £800m and £825m - a return which brokers think will rise to over £900m this year. These forecasts compare with profits of £684m in 1981.

However, with most of its profits earned overseas, £80m to £100m of the improvement will come from exchange rate gains.

The earnings growth BAT will report has not impressed the stock market. The shares have been severely underperforming other leading equities so far this year. Several brokers have recommended a switch into Imperial Group, Britain's other big tobacco company.

At half time BAT results were below expectations after problems in some of its associate companies and in United States retailing. The rate of growth over the last two years could well slow if there is any significant strengthening in the pound.

Thursday also sees results from insurance broker Stewart Wrightson, another group that will have benefited from the weakness in the pound.

Brokers have produced a range of forecasts here, from unchanged pretax profits of £9.2m at the lower end, to nearly £11m at the higher. But after disappointing results from Willis Faber, the market is not expecting a sparkling performance.

The group's insurance broking, much of which is in the United States, should show a good improvement but there is likely to be a severe downturn in profits from shipbroking and operating.

Mr Maxwell has been working flat out over the last two years taking cost out of the company. "It is a remarkable

achievement", one broker said, "but then the group was in a remarkable mess before Maxwell moved in."

The rationalization and cost-cutting have been coupled with a push to win back printing, particularly of mail order catalogues, which has gone overseas. Again with the pound devalued this should begin to meet with increasing success.

However, BPCC's big problem is still identified in the City as the Park Royal print works where a dispute is hitting

production of *Radio Times* and some newspaper colour supplements. "Maxwell has so far dealt with the easy bits. Now there's Park Royal," one broker said.

Croda International, the specialist chemicals group, will attract interest when it reports full-year figures on Thursday, not least because it might well miss its £16m profit forecast made when Burmah Oil launched its unsuccessful bid in December 1981.

Missed forecasts are not generally liked in the City but Croda may be forgiven for this one provided the discrepancy is not too great, because it was nearly 15 months ago that it made it. In addition, the final results are likely to be complicated by provisions for rationalization but should still show a substantial improvement over the £10.1m of 1981. Profits of between £22m and £23m are looked for this year.

There is also no question of Croda failing to pay the promised 7p final dividend.

The group recently put its synthetic chemicals division up for sale - a business with sales of over £20m a year which could well fetch over £10m.

There have been four approaches already, one from Burmah Oil, now nibbling at Croda rather than attempting to devour it whole.

## Critical week for sterling

All eyes will be on sterling this morning when the markets open after the Easter break. First reactions to the British National Oil Corporation's new price proposals were favourable but with many traders out of the market the movements tended to be exaggerated.

So the pound faces a critical week as BNOC's customers decide whether to accept the price proposal and while members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries assess the threat to their fragile pricing structure.

Uncertainty over American

interest rates also represents a danger for sterling.

But if oil prices appear to stabilize the pound could well recover sufficiently to encourage thought of further interest rate cuts.

This week's economic statistics are almost all crowded into tomorrow. March official reserves, final February retail sales and consumer credit, March wholesale prices, March provisional money supply advance and February housing starts.

The wholesale price figures will be watched closely for a guide to inflation trends over the next few months. Prices of raw materials are expected to show a significant increase because of sterling's depreciation last month, but so far these have not been reflected in factory gate prices, which continue to rise only slowly.

City analysts are predicting little growth in the main money supply measure, Sterling M3, in March, with higher bank lending being offset by currency outflows across the foreign

exchange.

بكتذا من لاصل

Investment and Finance

City Editor Anthony Hilton

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 655.1, up 4.1 FT 30 Index 80.5, up 0.32 Bargains 25, 288 Trading Hall USM Index 169.7, up 0.5 Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones 8,478.70, up 32.09 Hongkong Hang Sang Index 996.01, up 13.67 New York Dow Jones Industrial average 1,122, down 8 (latest)

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE Sterling \$1.4835, up 190pts Index 79.5 DM 3.6025 FrF 10.7850 Yen 354.50 Dollar Index 122.7, up 0.1 DM 2.4272 Gold \$314.50, down \$3.50 (Thursday's close) NEW YORK LATEST Sterling \$1.4885 Gold \$419

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: Base rates 10 1/2 3 month interbank 10 1/2-10 3/4 Euro-currency rates: 3 month dollar 9 1/2-9 3/4 3 month DM 5 1/2-5 3/4 3 month 12 1/2-12 3/4 ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period February 2 to March 1, 1983 inclusive: 11.391 per cent.

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interim: Inggil Industries, New Court Trust, Save and Prosper, Sterling Deposit Fund, and TR City of London Trust. Final: AFV Holdings, British Printing and Communication, Jackson Exploration (UK), Janson Group, Cleaners, Sharma Ware. TOMORROW - Interim: A Beckman, and Trident Computer Services. Final: Brammer, Bruntons (Musselburgh), Christie, International, Coates Bros., Fothergill and Harvey, John I Jacobs, Phoenix Assurance, G W Sparrow and Sons, Sun Alliance and London Insurance, Arthur Wood and Son (Longport), and York Mount. THURSDAY - Interim: Burgess Products, Druck Holdings, Ferry Pickering, Photo-me International and "W" Ribbons. Final: Bat Industries, Wm Baird, British Vending Industries, Cookson Group, Crode International, Dixor-Strand, Dreamland Electrical Appliances, Erth Finlay Packaging, Highlands and Lowlands, Ladbroke, Wm Morrison, Supermarkets, Richards (Lakeside), Start Wrightson, and Francis Sumner. FRIDAY - Interim: Scottish Metropolitan Properties, Final: Armitage Bros, Ermy, Insurance Corp of Ireland, Lyle Shipping, North British Canadian Investments, Senior Engineering Group, Trans National Trust, and George Wille and Sons (Hidge).

Systeme set for China deal

Systeme, the Leeds-based minicomputer manufacturer, is set to win a contract to supply computers to China and set up two factories there. The deal is subject to approval by Cocon, the Western committee that vets high technology sales to Communist countries. Until the Chinese factories are running - probably within two or three years - Systeme will supply computer systems from Britain. These direct imports are likely to amount to about 120 minicomputers, for use in the railways, mining and electricity supply industries. The first phase of the agreement is likely to be worth about £4m. Systeme is the second largest British-based computer manufacturer after ICL, with a projected turnover of £66m this year and a 40 per cent annual growth rate. ● FRAUD CLAIM: Lloyds Bank International has accused four Hongkong executives of defrauding it and has accused its former lawyer in Hongkong of negligence. The bank alleges it was defrauded by three senior executives of the Mee Kwong Group, one of Hongkong's largest garment makers, and by a senior executive of Great Eagle Com, a property company. ● VIDEO LAUNCH: Hitachi, the Japanese electronics group, says its wholly owned West German subsidiary will begin production of video tape recorders three months earlier than originally scheduled. It expects initially 5,000 units each month from as early as October. ● RUSSIAN DEAL: John Brown Engineering has sold an \$8.5m gas turbine to the Soviet Union - the 68th to be built for the company's largest customer.

Banks hold up Dome Petroleum refinancing

Toronto (AP-D) - Dome Petroleum's refinancing talks have bogged down amid indications of rivalries in the company's Canadian banking group. As a result, some of Dome's foreign lenders are becoming impatient with the slow pace of negotiations to reach a refinancing agreement for the troubled oil company. The attitude among many US banks is that if Mexico's debt problems can be fixed in six months, there's no reason why Dome should take a year, one US banker said. Dome, of Calgary, Alberta, and its bankers have been seeking a way to reschedule principal payments on thousands of millions of dollars of Dome debt that is due now or soon and which the company cannot pay. Talks have lagged since last summer with Canadian lenders and for almost six months with foreign lenders, in both cases longer than originally planned, and "There's been absolutely no progress for some time," another US banker said. At the same time, however, banking sources also said members of Dome's bankers were nervous enough to call in any loans, because the company is meeting all its interest requirements on about \$6.500m (£3,500m) of debt. According to American and European bankers, the refinancing talks have stalled because Dome's four Canadian banks - Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Toronto Dominion Bank, the Royal Bank of Canada and the Bank of Montreal - have been bickering among themselves. A US banker thought none of the Canadian banks - which have most at stake - was prepared to sacrifice any of its own security. Dome's debts are the result of an aggressive acquisition policy over the past four years. The company signed a refinancing agreement in September, when it was running at a deficit and its prospects were dim. It had \$1,400m debt due on September 30 and was not able to pay. The debt repayment, which has since grown to about \$2,000m, has been deferred. Under the September accord, the four Canadian banks and the Canadian Government agreed in principle to provide Dome with a \$1,000m credit facility that, if used, would give the banks and the Government effective control of the company. The banks would also reschedule debts of about \$34,000m.

Technology stocks lead US slide

Wall Street stock prices fell in early trading yesterday as investors worried that the Federal Reserve may be tightening credit restraints. The Dow Jones industrial average was down about eight points at 1,122 and declines led advances in more than two to one. Volume totalled some 10 million shares in the first half hour of trading. Technology issues, traditional market leaders, suffered from profit taking. Sperry Corp., trading ex-dividend, was off 1 1/2 to 3 1/2. Digital Equipment fell one to 123 1/2. Prime Computer lost 1 1/2 to 40 1/2. M/A-COM was down one to 23 1/2 and Motorola slid 2 1/2 to 103 1/2.

Mr Michael Metz, of Oppenheimer and Co, said Friday's report that US banks had net borrowed reserves of \$81m in the week ended March 30, rather than net free reserves, raised concerns that the Fed could be becoming slightly less accommodating.

Mr Michael Metz, of Oppenheimer and Co, said Friday's report that US banks had net borrowed reserves of \$81m in the week ended March 30, rather than net free reserves, raised concerns that the Fed could be becoming slightly less accommodating. Grand plans for relieving the international debt burden proliferate these days. moratoria, wholesale rescheduling, discounting, and other wonderful devices have all been aired. Given the scale and gravity of the problem, and the recognition that it is more than a liquidity crisis, the attraction of general solutions is understandable. But there is an alternative. A piecemeal approach which identified the constituent parts of a country's debt and tackled those which seemed pressing or amenable to treatment would probably win more political support more easily than a scheme for global reconstruction. An approach along these lines would be different from and superior to the ad hoc emergency combination of public and private bodies which has characterized debt rescues to date. Its advantage lies in superior information and to a lesser extent in more time for analysis. As the Treasury Select Committee recently pointed out, lack of information was one of the most disquieting aspects of bank lending during the 1970s. An example of this approach

Cash-starved International Development Association facing collapse

World Bank seeks Britain's help to make America pay up

By Michael Prest Mr A. W. "Tom" Clausen, president of the World Bank, is to visit Mrs Margaret Thatcher next week to press on the Government the urgent need for extra funds for the International Development Association, the bank's concessionary lending arm. IDA faces collapse next year, chiefly because of the failure of the United States to pay its agreed contributions. Mr Clausen will ask Britain and possibly Canada, to use the opportunity of the Williamsburg economic summit in May to impress upon the Americans the gravity of the situation. IDA makes interest-free loans over 50 years to the world's poorest people. Since its inception in 1961 the association has been successful in assisting the development of countries whose per capita income is less than \$730 a year. But the sixth IDA programme from 1981-3 has fallen short of its \$12,000m

lending target by about \$3,000m. Intensive diplomatic activity in recent months has failed to convince the US Congress that it should release all of the funds agreed under IDA 6, let alone vote a real increase in appropriations for IDA 7, which is now due to start on July 1, 1984. This in turn has aggravated doubts among IDA's 32 other donor members about the feasibility of continuing with the association. They do not want to make up the shortfall caused by the United States, and indeed cannot easily do so because the United States is still the biggest shareholder in the World Bank. Time is another problem. IDA's funds will soon be exhausted for much of last year it could not make agreed disbursements and donors will have to decide whether to try to keep the association alive or commit their aid through



Clausen: keen for British support

other channels, or reduce their aid overall. IDA officials believe they need as much as \$20,000m for IDA 7, which would run for three years, if the real value of aid is to be preserved and if

allowance is made for China's membership. China has doubted the eligible IDA population at a stroke. Privately they say that anything less than \$16,000m would be unconvincing. But the US Congress is baulking at voting the \$245m which is necessary to bring its present commitments up to date, and shows little sign of providing the additional \$1,095m in the fourth year. IDA 6 was stretched by a year to four years because the United States fell behind. A meeting of the donors in Copenhagen last week failed to bring about a noticeable change in the American attitude. M. Andre de Larre, who is in charge of the negotiations for the World Bank, said that that moves were about to put IDA on the Williamsburg agenda. The irony is that the difficulties on Capitol Hill have grown rather than diminished, as had been hoped, over the last three months because of the Admin-

istration's efforts to persuade Congress that the International Monetary Fund was not an aid body and that it deserved American support. As a consequence proper aid organisations such as IDA have been indirectly damned. Congressmen also feel that India, which receives about 40 per cent of IDA finance, should no longer be eligible and that China is capable of raising funds commercially. ● The pace of Britain's economic recovery is likely to slow in 1984 as inflation erodes living standards and dampens consumer spending, according to forecasts published today. City stockbrokers published today. Both Phillips and Drew and Simon and Coates predict growth of 2 1/2 per cent this year falling to about 1 1/2 per cent in 1984. The Treasury expects national output to rise by 2 per cent this year, accelerating to 2 1/2 per cent by mid-1984.

Future gas cartel threat to West

By Our Financial Staff By the 1990s Western Europe and the United States could be vulnerable to a cartel of natural gas producers similar to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, stockbroker Griesevson, Grant says in its World Gas Survey. Griesevson estimates that world gas exports could rise from 10 per cent to 20 per cent of world gas production by the end of the century. But gas output in European and the United States is expected to fall, and they could be importing more than 50 per cent and 20 per cent of their annual consumption respectively. Changing patterns of production will mean that the Third World will provide about three-quarters of world gas exports by the mid-1990s. These and other natural gas producers have been trying to peg gas prices to crude oil prices. The lack of a proper world market for natural gas and the recently abandoned American administration policy of regulating gas prices have depressed world prices. But Griesevson sees gas costing more in real terms as its

£1m price tag for Miss World

By Our Financial Staff The Miss World beauty contest, run by Mrs Eric Morley, former host of Meca Lesure, and his wife, Julia, is coming to the Unlisted Securities Market with a price tag of just over £1m. Schaverien, the stockbroking firm, is about to place 810,000 shares at 60p, which will raise £420,000 after expenses. The shares are expected to start trading a week on April 14. For many years the Miss World contest and its offshoots - Miss England, Scotland, Wales and United Kingdom - were run as a publicity venture for Meca, which gave away tickets for the event as hinge prizes. But when Mr Morley, the contest's originator, left Meca in 1978, he took with him a contract to continue running the venture. Rights to the contest were sold to Belhaven Brewery, where Mr Morley is a joint chairman, and then sold for £625,000 to a private company owned by Mr Morley in February of this year. The Morleys borrowed from Industrial Finance and Investment Corporation, promising that most of the money would be repaid by floating the company on the stock market. Pretax profits have increased from £51,000 in 1980 to £156,000 last year and the Morleys are forecasting a further rise to £300,000 in 1983. The net dividend this year will be 3p. About one third of the company's present income comes from television rights with seasonally accounting for the rest. But the Morleys expect future growth from Miss World merchandising, Mr Morley says he is about to sign a deal for the manufacture and sale of Miss World dolls.

Latest word in typing

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent A new British company is being set up to do for word processors and electronic typewriters what Clive Sinclair has done for home computers. Panorama Office Systems, as it is called, has several million pounds of initial funding, including £2.5m from the Prudential Assurance's Finance subsidiary and a £600,000 innovation grant from the Department of Industry. Its product is the "Personal Typing Centre", which offers the basic features of a word processor - display screen, floppy disc drive, daisy-wheel printer and separate keyboard - at about half the price of the cheapest systems now on the market. The company will contract out all manufacturing, following the policy of Brit's most successful home computer ventures, Sinclair Research and Acorn. Panorama's small team of executives, based in Milton Keynes, is now talking to several potential manufacturing partners, all in Britain and including some well-known names. The decision to base manufacturing in the United Kingdom was partly a result of the availability of government grants and partly because a careful evaluation of production costs in Britain and the US - the other possible location - came out in favour of the UK, said Mr Terry Cooke-Davies, Panorama's managing director. The entrepreneur behind Panorama is Mr Eric Winkler, a young Swiss businessman based in Hongkong, who already runs a successful electronics company making chess computers. Three years ago he commissioned Paterson, the research and development arm of the PA management consultancy group, to develop the Personal Typing Centre. Paterson has done most of the work in its laboratory near Cambridge, though three software firms are also involved. Technically the most novel feature of the product is its extremely simple (and therefore cheap) daisy-wheel printer which will enable Panorama to sell the whole system at a lower price than top-of-the-range electronic typewriters.



Morley: forecasting a £300,000 profit

Alternative solution to the bank loans crisis

Debts needing specialist care

By Michael Prest Grand plans for relieving the international debt burden proliferate these days. moratoria, wholesale rescheduling, discounting, and other wonderful devices have all been aired. Given the scale and gravity of the problem, and the recognition that it is more than a liquidity crisis, the attraction of general solutions is understandable. But there is an alternative. A piecemeal approach which identified the constituent parts of a country's debt and tackled those which seemed pressing or amenable to treatment would probably win more political support more easily than a scheme for global reconstruction. An approach along these lines would be different from and superior to the ad hoc emergency combination of public and private bodies which has characterized debt rescues to date. Its advantage lies in superior information and to a lesser extent in more time for analysis. As the Treasury Select Committee recently pointed out, lack of information was one of the most disquieting aspects of bank lending during the 1970s. An example of this approach

way of looking at the problem. Some countries certainly suffered from an increase in oil prices and interest rates above what could reasonably have been anticipated in 1979. But others - Argentina is a clear example - accumulated huge obligations for general financing. One conclusion, therefore, is that exceptional debts deserve exceptional measures. Assume for a moment that the increase in oil prices above the trend indicated by inflation has now halted - lower oil prices will help oil importers, but existing debts still have to be serviced. Measures to reduce the "excess cost" of Brazil's oil imports would make a sizable impression on the country's \$80,000m in debts. The implication is an arrangement similar to the exhausted International Monetary Fund Oil Facility. But there are two objections to this approach. One is the difficulty of separating exogenous causes of debt from other causes of debt. The world is full of unpleasant surprises. Moreover, general borrowing "other debt" on the chart - is the overwhelming problem for many countries. The chart provides another

Table with 3 columns: Country, 'Excess' oil bill, 'Excess' including oil financing cost, 'Excess' interest. Rows include Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ivory Coast, Mexico, Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela.

Cope denies claims by Dowable

By Jeremy Warner Cope Allman International yesterday described as "totally inaccurate and misleading" a circular sent to its shareholders last week by Dowable - the consortium headed by Mr David Wickens, chairman of British Car Auctions - which is bidding nearly £24m for the engineering group. This latest flurry of acrimony comes ahead of tomorrow's first closing date for the offer. From the City offices of merchant bank adviser, Morgan Grenfell, after last-minute talks on defensive tactics, Mr Michael Doherty, chief executive of Cope Allman, yesterday expressed "complete confidence" after discussions with our institutional shareholders, that Dowable will not succeed at this price. The Dowable consortium is likely to announce today that it has raised its stake to around 20 per cent of Cope. However, it is believed that Dowable is buying from sources already committed to the bid, so that, as it raises its declared stake, its undeclared support diminishes. Two stockbroking firms, Griesevson Grant and de Zoete and Bevan, are known to have been competing in the market for Cope shares with Dowable. Mr Doherty said Dowable's claim in a circular to shareholders that total directors' remuneration rose by 38 per cent in the two years to July last year while shareholders' funds fell 16 per cent, was "totally misleading". "Individual directors received pay increases of less than 8 per cent a year during this period", he said.

US curbs anger Japan

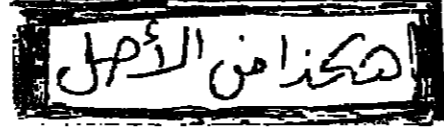
Tokyo (Reuters) - Japan has reacted angrily to President Reagan's announcement of stiff tariffs on motorcycle imports. Japan has, of course, the right to retaliate against the US by delivering a similar blow to a certain US item, Mr Sadanori Yamazaki, International Trade and Industry Minister, told the Japanese parliament. "Emotionally, I feel like hitting back. But I am now trying to be patient and not to raise a bar". President Reagan upheld a decision by the US Inter-

Continued

Hidden cost of inflation

Hundreds of firms have been needlessly bankrupted and thousands of families denied the chance to buy their own home because our lending and borrowing system fails to cope with inflation, according to today which urges index-linking throughout the financial system as a means of revitalizing the British economy. Mr Christopher Hawkins, author of Britain's Economic Future: an immediate programme for revival (Whitstreak Books) is a senior lecturer in economics at Southampton University. He claims index-linking would enable industry to borrow at one-sixth of the present cost and cut by half the share of take-home pay needed to buy a house. The nub of the argument is that the present system - in which normal interest rates reflect inflation plus some "real" interest rate - fails to take into account that the inflation component is really compensation for erosion of the real value of capital. Without inflation, a firm borrowing money for five years would pay interest on the loan each year and at the end of the period pay back the capital. With inflation, the firm has to pay interest each year, plus an extra sum for capital erosion. In effect it is forced to repay capital early, with sometimes devastating effects on cash flow. With an index-linked contract, the firm would pay back the same real amount of capital, with yearly interest, at a "real" rate of perhaps 2 or 3 per cent, calculated on the indexed value of the loan. The economic argument for widespread index-linking of financial contracts is a cogent one but there remain many practical difficulties. But these dwindle beside the problems associated with the alternative route to financial sanity - the permanent elimination of inflation, which not even the present Government regards as a near-term possibility.

The Scottish Eastern Investment Trust public limited company. Annual Report Year Ended 31st January 1983. Geographical Distribution of Portfolio: North America 34.9%, Far East 11.2%, UK 50.6%, Elsewhere 3.3%. The Year in Brief: Total investments exceed £170 million. Net Asset value up 24.6 per cent on last year. Dividend maintained despite greater emphasis on capital growth. £10 million 30 year debenture issued. Ordinary share price up 22p to 110p at 31st January 1983.

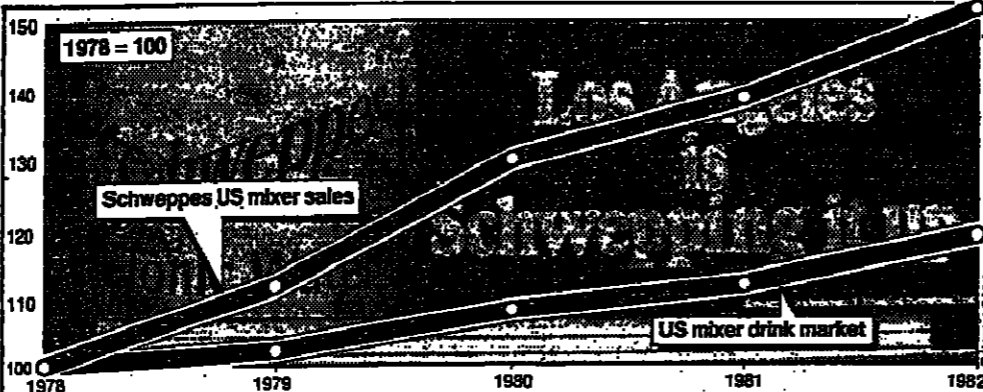


Marketing and advertising: Torin Douglas

# Schwepping through the centuries

British companies have great world brand names. Too often we fail to exploit them. Schweppes is a successful exception. Now it is using its bicentenary by making "Schwepping" a worldwide habit.

The business of choosing a brand name is highly complex these days, particularly for international companies. Many hours of research, by both man and computer, are devoted to select a name that will carry authority in many markets around the world. Yet many of the best-known brand names were never invented by marketing men - they simply happened to be the name of the company's founder, as in the case of Jacob Schweppes.



It is crucial, is the foundation on which sales must be built. It is no surprise that Mr Collins, though deputy chairman and chief executive of the whole Cadbury Schweppes group, still plays an active role in marketing Schweppes internationally. Having risen through the overseas side of the Schweppes company, before the merger with Cadbury in 1969, he is well aware of huge opportunities that remain for Schweppes - and the group as a whole - to expand in every market of the world.

declared there was "Only one Schwepping day to Christmas". The agency felt it had great potential for development.

In a special chapter devoted to advertising in the bicentennial book, Mr Tony Thorncroft points out: "Many of Schweppes' greatest advertising campaigns had been built around the company name; here was another opportunity. Just by imagining a dictionary definition of Schwepping, the agency poured out all the words that Schweppes had long sought to identify with - 'enjoyment, fruition, gratification, satisfaction, fulfilment, completion, dedication, zest, gusto, indulgence, fun'."

## American notebook

# Simmering interest rates boil over

The crisis in the American financial markets that has been in the making since October is coming to a head. The rise in the "federal funds" rate of interest in the past two weeks has pointed to a breakout of interest rates from the straitjacket in which they have been held by the Federal Reserve for the past six months.

## Unlisted Securities Market review

# Rights issue planned for Charles Booth relaunch

Dealings are expected to resume later this month in Charles Booth, the former engineering company which overnight turned its hand to the property market with the help of Huntingdon and the Dutch bank Friesch Groningsche Hypotheekbank.

Interview has recently launched a family film, Roar, about big cats, and it is very pleased with sales of a low budget movie *Ed Dazz*.

**COMPAGNIE BANCAIRE**  
Société Anonyme  
Incorporated in France with limited liability  
Regd. Office: 5 avenue Kléber, Paris 16ème.

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The shareholders of Compagnie Bancaire are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 26th April, 1983 at 3.00 p.m. at the Head Office, 5 avenue Kléber, Paris 16ème, to consider the following Agenda:

- The Report of the Board of Management.
- The Report of the Supervisory Board.
- The general report of the Auditors.
- The special report of the Auditors in accordance with Article 143 of the Law of 24th July, 1966.
- The examination and approval of the Balance Sheet and Accounts for the financial period 1982.
- The appropriation of profits and the fixing of the dividend.
- The confirmation of the co-option of four members of the Supervisory Board.
- The confirmation of the nomination of two censors.
- The renewal of the mandates of four members of the Supervisory Board.
- The determination of the fees paid to members of the Supervisory Board.
- The determination of the fees paid to the Censors.
- The authorisation to the Board of Management to issue bonds to a total of fr. 3 billion.
- Any other business.

In order to attend or be represented at the Meeting, owners of registered shares must have been entered on the register five clear days prior to the Meeting. Holders of bearer shares must deposit, at least five clear days prior to the Meeting at the Head Office, either their share certificate or a certificate of deposit, issued by the bank, financial institution or stockbroker with whom their shares are lodged.

Shareholders who wish to attend the Meeting are requested to make advance application to the Company for an admission card.

**Eurobond prices (yields and premiums)**

STRAIGHT DEBT	Price	YTM
France 10% 1984	100.42	10.28
France 10% 1985	100.42	10.28
France 10% 1986	100.42	10.28
France 10% 1987	100.42	10.28
France 10% 1988	100.42	10.28
France 10% 1989	100.42	10.28
France 10% 1990	100.42	10.28
France 10% 1991	100.42	10.28
France 10% 1992	100.42	10.28
France 10% 1993	100.42	10.28
France 10% 1994	100.42	10.28
France 10% 1995	100.42	10.28
France 10% 1996	100.42	10.28
France 10% 1997	100.42	10.28
France 10% 1998	100.42	10.28
France 10% 1999	100.42	10.28
France 10% 2000	100.42	10.28
France 10% 2001	100.42	10.28
France 10% 2002	100.42	10.28
France 10% 2003	100.42	10.28
France 10% 2004	100.42	10.28
France 10% 2005	100.42	10.28
France 10% 2006	100.42	10.28
France 10% 2007	100.42	10.28
France 10% 2008	100.42	10.28
France 10% 2009	100.42	10.28
France 10% 2010	100.42	10.28

## APPOINTMENTS

# Mining equipment group names director-general

Mr Harold Rhodes, director of Overseas Mining and of British Coal International, has been released by the National Coal Board to become the first full-time director-general of the Association of British Mining Equipment Companies.

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Alfred Y.	7	89/93	75	9.50	11.29	11.29
BICC	7	87/88	81	10.18	11.48	11.48
Blue Circle	9	92/97	84	10.73	11.32	11.32
Cambridge	7	82/87	89	8.41	10.37	10.37
Delta Gp.	10	95/99	89	11.54	12.15	12.15
Eng. Prop.	9	87/88	89	11.83	11.88	11.88
Imp. Invest.	12	89/91	75	9.42	10.32	10.32
F.F.L.I.U.	7	89/92	77	9.83	11.25	11.25
Land Sec.	9	86/91	80	11.25	11.86	11.86
M&P	12	87/91	80	11.89	11.89	11.89
Trustee	10	91/96	90	11.89	12.24	12.24

## Base Lending Rates

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Barclays	10 1/2%
BCCI	10 1/2%
Consolidated Crds.	10 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co	10 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	10 1/2%
Midland Bank	10 1/2%
Nat Westminster	10 1/2%
TSB	10 1/2%
Williams & Glyn's	10 1/2%

## SCOTTISH AMICABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the One Hundred and Fifty-seventh Annual General Meeting of the Members will be held in 150 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5NQ on Wednesday 27th April 1983 at Noon.

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4,465 Ass Brit Ind Ord	134	-3	6.4	4.8	7.8	10.2
Am Brit Ind CULS	150	-3	10.0	6.7	-	-
3,647 Airtrung Group	63	-	4.1	9.7	18.0	18.0
19,063 Baring & Rhodes	32	-	6.3	13.4	3.6	6.3
1,713 CCL 11.0% Conv Pref	312	+2	11.4	3.7	13.1	16.3
3,320 Cindio Group	210	+4	15.7	11.5	-	-
4,024 Debonair Services	62	-	6.0	11.5	2.4	9.3
6,020 Frank Hornell	92	+3	-	-	7.7	8.2
8,937 Frank Hornell ProOrd	90	+3	8.7	9.6	10.1	10.1
627 George Bids	62	-	7.1	11.5	3.9	6.2
3,168 Ind. Pres. Confings	34	-	-	-	5.9	12.3
3,744 Isis Conv Pref	156	+1	7.3	9.4	10.0	12.6
3,618 Jackson Group	143	-	13.7	10.1	-	-
27,880 James Burrough	202	+4	9.5	5.2	4.4	9.1
1,510 Robert Jenkins	148	-	2.0	13.5	1.6	16.4
3,608 Scruttons "A"	70	-1	5.7	8.1	9.1	10.9
3,734 Torday & Gault	112	-	11.4	10.2	5.0	8.6
4,004 Unilever Holdings	25	-1 1/2	0.46	1.8	-	-
8,139 Water Alexander	67	-2	6.4	10.0	4.6	6.6
6,138 W. S. Yeates	263ad	+4	17.1	6.5	4.1	8.4

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Software revolution/Talking and listening

When speaking is easier than hearing

Some 1,500 computer scientists, acoustics engineers, speech researchers and linguists will gather in Boston, Massachusetts, in ten days' time.

They will come together to listen to the presentation of 400 papers under the conference heading of the International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP).

It is the eighth conference to be presented by the US-based Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and it brings together people from many disciplines to discuss advances in the field.

Not surprisingly, the conference is dominated by the computerization aspects of speech and signal processing.

The highly international flavour of the conference also serves as a pointer as to how far the technologists have advanced in cracking that most elusive of problems - the precise definition of speech.

Ever since the carefully-modulated tones of Arthur C Clarke's HAL computer in 2001: A Space Odyssey first suggested that computers would be capable of speech and, even more importantly, of "listening", it has been a challenge which has captured the imagination.

If only computers could obey oral orders and speak their answers to us, then a lot more of us could probably see some use from them.

Speech output from computers has been around for some time and is relatively simple, compared with understanding speech by computer.

True speech synthesizers - as opposed to the digital recording of a human voice - which is then played back - emerged in the mid-1970s with such devices as the Kurzweil reading machine. This machine could scan a piece of printed matter and synthesize sounds which resembled human speech. It has found a useful home in many US libraries, where it allows blind people access to the written word without recourse to the Braille system.

Similarly, speech synthesis devices have also been supplied as an extra with some computer terminals to aid the partially-sighted. IBM launched such a terminal a couple of years ago and other manufacturers have followed suit.

But the real breakthrough in synthesis devices came from an unexpected quarter.

Texas Instruments introduced a range of teaching aids for children in the late 1970s which included speech synthesis. Among them was the Speak 'n' Spell - by far the most successful commercial application of speech synthesis - a device to help children learn how to spell, albeit in American English.

In fact, the Speak 'n' Spell was the tip of the iceberg for Texas Instruments. It has invested vast resources in researching speech synthesis and recognition as a means of improving interaction between machines and people. The company is a leading manufacturer of chips for speech synthesis applications and supplies other firms working in the field.

Torch, the Cambridge-based UK microcomputer builder, has included a Texas Instruments chip in its business micro, called the Torch. Mr Roy Anderson, the company's software director, is enthusiastic about the use of speech synthesis to make computers easier to use.

'It could be rather embarrassing in an office if the machine always tells people off for getting things wrong'

"We can see a lot of potential for combining speech output and graphics," he said, "but you must be careful how you use speech output. For example, it is not a good idea to use it to highlight errors perpetrated by the computer user. It could be rather embarrassing in an office environment to have the machines consistently telling people off for getting things wrong."

The Torch has been used in experiments into the even more complex speech recognition process. The UK software house, Logos, used the Torch as front end for its Logos machine - one of the most advanced products of its type. The Logos can recognize so

called "continuous" speech - in other words, it can, with certain limitations, handle the way that human beings speak.

The limitations of the Logos give some indication of the difficulty of speech recognition. The major limitations is the size of the vocabulary it can recognize - around 800 words - and the need to identify the speaker to the system.

The problem of speaker identification is common to all speech recognition devices. The system requires "training" with the person who operates it, so that it can store up a kind of voice print.

The most successful recorded work in this area so far has been done by IBM. It has developed a continuous speech recogniser with a vocabulary of some 1,000 words achieving a reasonably acceptable level of accuracy. However, the system has to know who is speaking to it, and the subject matter; in other words, it needs to know the context of the conversation.

The standard example used by researchers to illustrate this problem is the difference between "the grey tape" and the "great ape". For a computerized speech recognizer to tell the difference between these two phrases, it must be aware of the context. There is no audible difference between the phrases when spoken.

This example raises a question which is being debated with some enthusiasm in speech research. Do you first need to understand what is being said before it can be "recognized", or do you need to recognize the words before the machine can be brought to understand it?

It does depend on the priorities of the application. In the case of a voice-activated typewriter - said by some US pundits to be the direction in which IBM is hoping to go - the priority is in recognizing the words exactly. The actual meaning of the words is not relevant unless it helps in identifying them.

In the more exciting applications, where a computer can be commanded to follow some task via a spoken word or phrase, the words are not all that relevant as long as the machine can "understand" the intent.

Philip Manchester

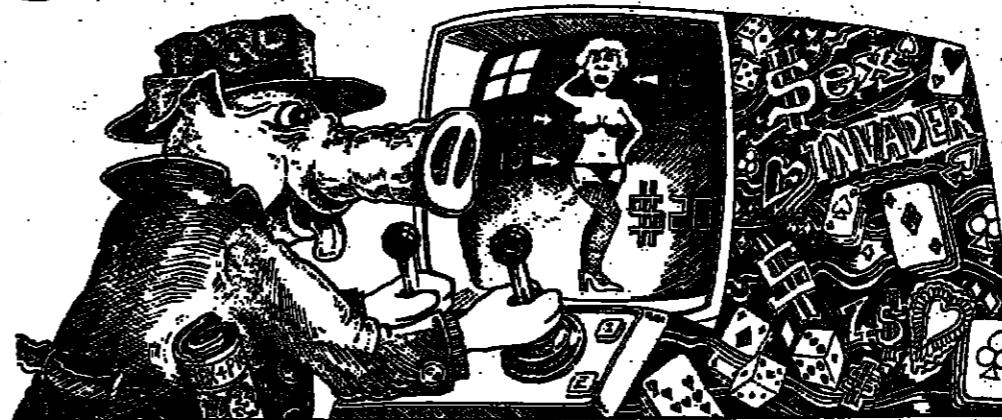
GPs get just what the doctor ordered



Dr Norman Stoddart, a Nottingham GP, has been appointed the first ICT Computer Fellow by the Royal College of General Practitioners to advise GPs on all aspects of computer use, writes Philippa Toomey. ICI Pharmaceuticals has sponsored this new post and the RCGP chose Dr Stoddart because of his extensive experience with medical programs on the computer in Nottingham where he has a practice with four partners. An RCGP report in 1980 recognized that GPs could benefit greatly from computers by using them during consultations with patients. A terminal could give immediate information on the use and abuse of drugs, differential diagnosis for the patient's condition, appropriate investigations, and guidelines for management of the diagnosed disease. Dr Stoddart will now keep doctors informed on computers through a series of regional college meetings and seminars. A secretariat has been set up at the Royal College to support his work and to ensure that he is accessible to doctors.

The games people play

Armageddon in your living room



Why wait for the Third World War when you can enjoy all the excitement of the nuclear holocaust in the comfort of your own home? Britain's growing army of home computer enthusiasts need no longer confine their video wars to space. Nukewar, for instance, simulates a confrontation between two super-powers. You must "defend your country by massive espionage efforts, or by building jet fighter bombers, missiles, submarines, and anti-ballistic missiles".

If you like your nuclear combatants to be more specific than two hypothetical "super-powers" then B1 Nuclear Bomber may be more to your liking. You are the pilot of a B1 bomber on a mission over the Soviet Union says the brochure for Avalon Hill's latest collection of games. "You must fly through stiff Russian defences to the target city, bomb it and return home".

B1 Nuclear Bomber is not to be confused with B1 Bomber, the new video game from Mattel, the giant American toy firm, which enables you to take part in a bombing raid over Germany at the height of the Second World War.

Not all the video game nasties are simulations of actual events. For example, Communist Mutants From Space merely challenges you to pick off the alien rods that are falling out of the sky in space invader fashion.

The computer generation currently being weaned on such games as Communist Mutants may have a correct interpretation of history. Games like VC (for Viet Cong) will

help here: "You have the task of bringing the civilian population under your protection where the enemy can hide among the people, and where the politics of terrorism and friendship can turn the people you want to save, against you... VC faithfully recreates this struggle in which you can lose without ever being defeated."

A recent survey conducted by the American trade magazine Playmeter found that Americans last year spent more money on video and computer games than they did on records and films put together. Given the enormous number of new releases, it is not surprising that some of them will be near the knuckle.

But if violence is not your bag, there are computer sex games in Strip Poker, two model girls called Susy and Melissa lose their clothes on the turn of the cards.

Sex is not new to computer games. America has a magazine devoted to the subject and a quarterly publication entitled The Dirty Book. A typical game is Softporn Adventure in which the player must find and seduce three girls in a casino. Money is the key to success. The more the player wins at the tables, the more he can spend at the bar, the greater his attraction to the countless beautiful blondes with Californian suntans who abound in this computerized casino. Slightly up-market is Interlude which exhorts you to let "electronics whizz David Brown computerize your sex life". No idle piece of titillation this. The serious sex experts at Forum Magazine are all for Interlude.

There has been opposition to "blue" video games in America. At a recent press conference to launch a game called Custer's Revenge, which includes a scene in which a Red Indian woman is raped, the manufacturers' faced demonstrators from the National Organization of Women and the Red Indian community.

But the strongest opposition is likely to be from the large video games manufacturers themselves, who are anxious to promote the image of a "family product".

In America, Atari is suing the manufacturers of Custer's Revenge, which runs on Atari's video games centre, and a UK executive of the company "totally disassociated" the firm from the games which it feels are in poor taste.

The women's movement is not entirely happy about this new wave of hi-tech porn and two enterprising feminists have hit back with their own computer game. Love - subtitled "a game for women by women" - reverses the theme of Softporn Adventure: the women must seduce the men.

Eugene Lacey

The author is a staff writer on Computer and Video Games.

Letter

Head in the sand

From Derek Friend, principal lecturer in statistics, School of Social Sciences and Business Studies, The Polytechnic of Central London: This school has had a trickle of students arriving with a knowledge of computer studies. With the advent of the micro-computer in schools and homes, this trickle should become a flood. Your leader on computing suggests that what happens in the future depends on local authorities. From my personal experience it also depends on the attitude of head teachers.

My son's school has a large number of micro-computers. My son is in his fifth term but has yet to be taken into the computer room by a teacher to use a computer. The headmaster refuses to provide a course so that children can enter O-level computer studies in the fifth year. I have sophisticated computer equipment in my home and I have sufficient knowledge of computing to teach my son to O-level standard. I have tried to enter my son as a private candidate. The Associated Examining Board accept that there is a demand, but the large increase in home computers was not envisaged when it drew up examination regulations for computer studies.

At present a candidate for computer studies has to be registered at a centre and the practical work (which carries 30 per cent of the O-level marks) marked by the centre. When the practical work is done at home this obviously poses a problem - has the work been all done by the parent?

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Going it alone

Turning the tables on a computer

Peter Kyle is a chartered accountant who has twice in the last five years been made redundant by companies where a computer was brought in to streamline operations.

Mr Kyle, however, does not blame the computer for his misfortunes - in fact, he sees the computer giving him a chance to avoid redundancy a third time.

Thanks to his efforts to understand the new technology, he is now operating a one-man computer accounting service to small firms near his home in Sanderstead, south London.

He has been a systems accountant working with the computer department of a large department store, and later, after five months' unemployment, with a small but rapidly growing life assurance company.

In his first job, he says, it was office politics rather than the computer that lost him his job during a reorganization. In the second, his firm was taken over by a bigger company that simply did not need an extra accountant.

But more and more small firms and professional practices, he reasons, do need extra help with book-keeping - whether or not they have accountants. So from his home, Mr Kyle is operating Barrowsfield Computer Services (named after the house), a one-man computer bureau based on his Tandy Model One microcomputer system.

How then, after his two experiences of redundancy involving computerized firms, does he see his own computer horizons?

"I'm beginning to see the computer as giving me an element of freedom, providing I can get the message across," Mr Kyle says. The freedom is that of "being one's own business", and the message is that "the computer can do a very simple and effective job without the sort of complexity that has been attached to it in the past".

What happened is that having learnt about and worked with computers in his store job, he bought a rather basic machine three years ago. He has been adding to it ever since. The assurance company, however, had a manual accounting system when he joined it, although later he persuaded them to buy a computer - the same model as his own.

Mr Kyle said: "I had been pottering in and out of computer shops for some time because home computers were coming in. Initially I was

interested only in learning more, but in the summer of 1979 I actually put one of our company's jobs on my micro. Business was increasing so fast there was no other way of coping other than hiring more staff.

"Later that year, the firm got the same model. I then found myself running my own computer to develop the program, then running them at the office and also bringing work home and doing it on my computer."

In late 1981, without a job once more, it was to his own computer that he eventually turned.

Not that Mr Kyle's Tandy has ceased to be a home computer. It helps with the letting of a bungalow he owns in the New Forest. "I have a word-processing programme for the computer and all I need to do when somebody wants details of the property is to pull up the standard letter, type in their name and address and - there's the letter off to them", he said.

He is also accountant for his local church, All Saints, Sanderstead, and recently was able to produce annual accounts within days of the bank statements being available.

"We have around 100 items of analysis - that's about 10 headings for different kinds of giving, there's another 10 transactions to do with the hall, and about 30 headings for different sorts of expenditure."

"I just entered it all in transaction order, then told the thing to sort it out in account number order and then, 10 minutes later, I knew how much had been given or spent on each account. To keep track of all those on a manual system used to be really hairy."

He acknowledges that some small business people will acquire microcomputers themselves, and so may not need computer bureau services. On the other hand, he says, some would be unable to keep a microcomputer fully loaded, and "there are an awful lot who don't want the bother".

But, I asked, is there not some prospect that the twice-redundant Mr Kyle and his computer services bureau might now help put other people out of work?

Mr Kyle said: "Very often what the computer can do is something you wouldn't hire anyone to do anyway - you would just try to fit it in with everything else. If the computer can get on with it without your bothering, that's fine."

Ross Davies

Hewlett-Packard office systems talk business sense.

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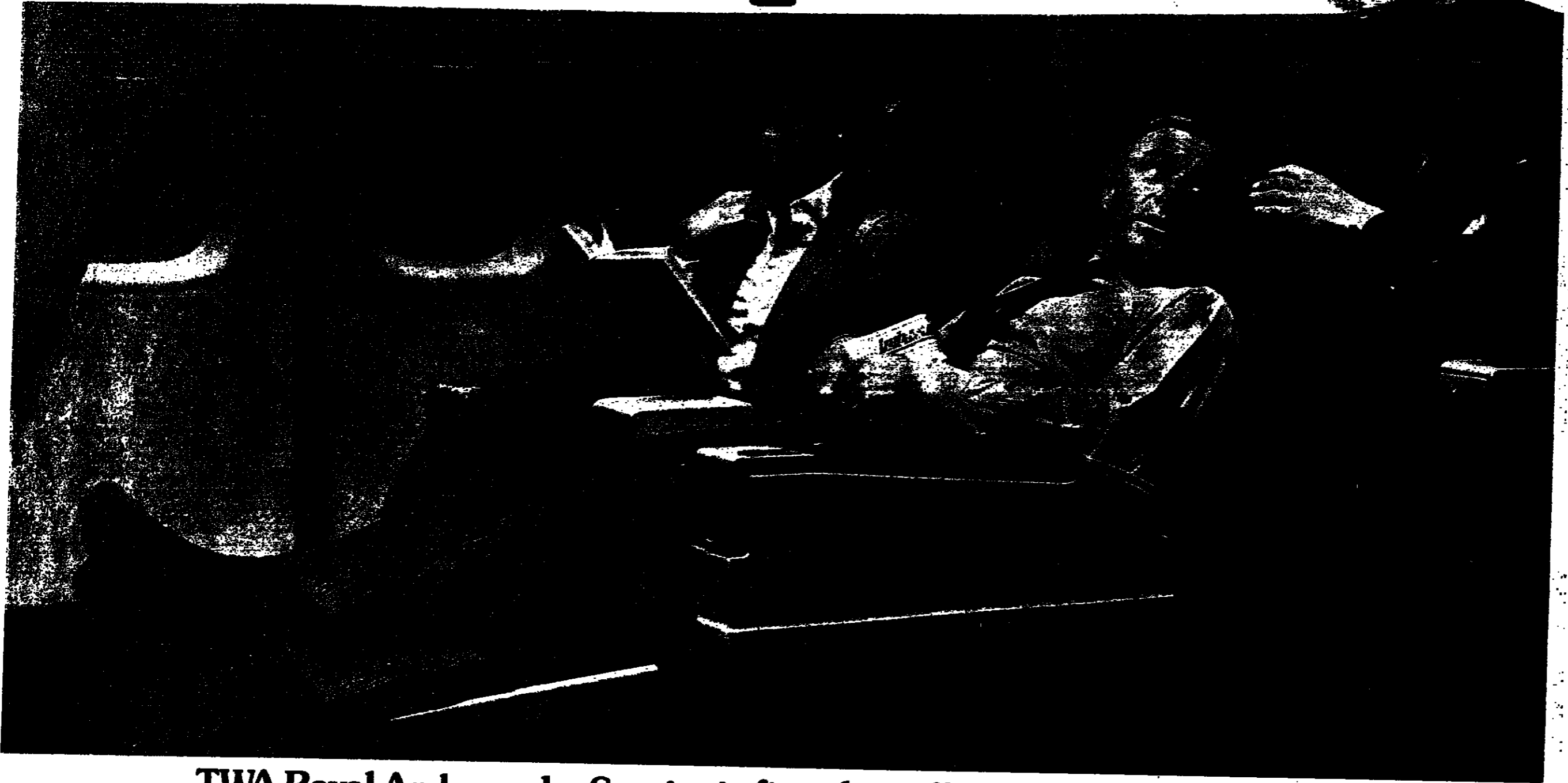
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FOOTBALL: LIVERPOOL AND TOTTENHAM ENJOY A HOLIDAY GOAL BONUS

City surrender after token resistance

By Peter Ball
Manchester City 0
Liverpool 4
The goalkeeper went through his repertoire, missing and mispunching crosses, throwing and kicking straight to a nearby blue shirt and for his most dramatic moment...

Cannons silenced in 1912 overture

By Stuart Jones
Tottenham Hotspur 5
Arsenal 0
It was not so much a famous victory for Tottenham Hotspur, more an embarrassing humiliation for Arsenal. They were down within 18 minutes, fortunate that the total was not doubled by the interval...



Woodcock as a bird of prey: The Arsenal man harries Miller. (Photograph by John Evans)

Woodcock as a bird of prey: The Arsenal man harries Miller. (Photograph by John Evans)
The other extremity of his sea, he inadvertently tested Clemente's sprinting ability. The audience merely laughed. Not so Terry Neil, Arsenal's manager. In clearly restraining his criticism of a side that yielded 'total control', he described their performance as 'simply not good enough and something will have to be done'.

Woodcock as a bird of prey: The Arsenal man harries Miller. (Photograph by John Evans)
The only threat to Tottenham's defence, not surprisingly in one-sided circumstances, was provided by their captain, Roberts. Unaware that his goalkeeper was exercising at

Thijssen shows up those around him

By Stuart Q. Hagan
Norwich City 0
Ipswich Town 0
Thijsen, the Dutch international, showed an earlier world-class performance in the game. He was the only player to score a goal in the match, and his performance was a revelation for Ipswich.

Antic sent off

Watford 5
Luton 2
Luton slipped further towards relegation with their defeat at Watford, and to make matters worse, had their Yugoslav striker, Ante Stipanovic, sent off in the 62nd minute after he had been cautioned earlier for dissent.

Derby reach a safer position

Derby County 2
Newcastle 1
Derby, in a more relaxed relegation position with a hard-earned victory, which continues their remarkable unbeaten run. They looked to have the game settled by half-time when they led 2-0, but Newcastle, inspired by Kevin Keegan, fought their way back into the game.

Derby County 2
Newcastle 1
Newcastle pulled a goal back in the 58th minute. Keegan stepped over the defensive wall and Waddle hooked the ball past Clancy.

Charlton takes over as caretaker at Wigan

Charlton took over as caretaker at Wigan. The former England international, who has been at Wigan since 1978, was appointed to the role after the departure of the previous manager.

PIFA find new reasons to curb America

The president of the International Football Federation (FIFA), Joao Havelange, has produced further reasons for the rejection of the United States as hosts for the 1990 World Cup.

Newport win puts them in line for promotion

Newport County 1
Cardiff City 0
Newport County, if not exactly sweeping their way to the top of the table, certainly displayed Cardiff City by a far wider margin than the score suggests.

Newport County 1
Cardiff City 0
Newport County, if not exactly sweeping their way to the top of the table, certainly displayed Cardiff City by a far wider margin than the score suggests.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Bunting's strategy rebounds on Hull

By Keith Macklin
In front of a sea of black and white favours, reminiscent of a Hull home game, Hull went to Castleford yesterday for a repeat of Saturday's Challenge Cup semi-final. The Hull coach, Arthur Bunting, took the risk of making several changes and switches in his large squad, and the tactic rebounded as Castleford took revenge with a convincing 21-10 win which takes them into the top eight.

By Richard Eaton
British squash can do with more days like yesterday's opener at the British Open Championships, sponsored by Daines and Tate, at the Carrington Club, Derby. Two teenagers, Jamie Hickox and Zain Saleh, the finest wins of their careers against well-known overseas players, and the national champion, Gwynn Briggs, travelling only a dozen miles down the road from his Nottingham home, collected twenty-five birthday cards and a £4,500 victory over a New Zealander, Craig Blackwood.

By Brendan Lynch
The correct choice of tyres and consistent driving ensured that Enzo Gabbiani, of Italy, in a British March car, increased his European formula two champion ship lead with a clear win in yesterday's second round at the Thruxton circuit in Hampshire. Mike Thackwell, the former New Zealand driver, who led until his self-compounding, 3.5s deteriorated, finished second ahead of Jonathan Palmer, the former Formula One driver, who was leading until he was overtaken by Gabbiani.

Palmer wins tyre test

Palmer won a tyre test at Thruxton. The test was held to determine which tyre would be used for the remainder of the season. Palmer's tyres proved to be the most durable and fastest.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with multiple columns listing various sports events, dates, and results. Includes sections for BASKETBALL, HOCKEY FESTIVALS, CRICKET, and SNOW REPORTS.

Table showing football league tables for various divisions. Columns include team names, goals scored, and points.

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IN BRIEF

Melia's prediction
The Brighton Manager, Jimmy Melia, who correctly predicted that his team would beat Liverpool and Norwich in the FA Cup, has made another prediction. 'We are definitely going to escape relegation,' he said after Brighton had scored two goals in the last 30 minutes of the best Tottenham 2-1 on Saturday.

Barbarians put to the sword by Swansea

By David Hands Rugby Correspondent Swansea Barbarians 58 Swansea 6

A West Country baker's dozen

By Alan Gibson Bath 60 New Brighton 10

Pioneering mariners take to the waves

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, Lisbon

Whitaker goes to head of league

By Jenny MacArthur

Newport are in no mood for penalties

By Gerald Davies

Pontypool pack in irresistible form

By Nicholas Keith

Jeffreys impressive

The British Junior Hardcourt Championships sponsored by Prudential...

Cycling Coasting in at Girvan

By John Wilcockson

Yesterday's results

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Results

Waterloo back row inspire win

with Carfoot, their scrum half

Gravelle's field day

Martin Gravelle, the Llanelli full back, played a major role in his club's victory over Moseley by 29 points...

Lowe breaks the 50 second barrier

David Lowe, of Harrow and Watlington, yesterday capped a winter of superb timing and record-breaking by becoming the first Briton to break 50 seconds for the 100 metres freestyle...

Results from 16 race meetings

Table with 2 columns: Meeting Name and Race Results

Nottingham

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Results

Chepstow NH

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Results

Warwick

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Results

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page



PERSONAL COLUMNS

AND YOU, being dead in your sins...

BIRTHS: FERNANDEZ, On 28th February...

DEATHS: ADAMS - On 30th March 1983...

DEATHS: ALLARDYCE - On March 31st...

DEATHS: ANDREWS - On March 31st 1983...

DEATHS: DAVIES - On 28th March 1983...

DEATHS: DIXON - On March 30th 1983...

DEATHS: GADDON - On Good Friday morning...

DEATHS: GASCONE - PETER HAROLD (BILL)...

DEATHS: MACKENZIE - On March 29th...

DEATHS: MAYER - On 28th March 1983...

DEATHS: SHAW - On 30th March 1983...

DEATHS: WHIAMHAM - On 28th March 1983...

IN MEMORIAM: BELL - On 11th March 1983...

IN MEMORIAM: VYVIAN (CROWN) JENNIFER...

WANTED: CAR OWNER requires garage...

WANTED: WINDLEWOOD tickets required...

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 20 SHIM BROWNE UK show...

ANNOUNCEMENTS: GRIEN chairman of main act...

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS: On most holidays you pay for the extras...

RECENT SNOWFALLS AND GREAT SKIING IN VAL D'ISERE VERBERK AND MERIBEL

CLUB MARK WARNER: On most holidays you pay for the extras...

SKI BEST VALUE IN VERBERK: take advantage of end of season...

SKI SKI SKI SKI SKI SNOW COULDN'T BE BETTER!

UP AND AWAY: Reliable flights and lowest prices...

SKI SKI SKI SKI SKI SNOW COULDN'T BE BETTER!

LOW COST FLIGHTS: AUSTRALIA, NAIROBI, JUBA...

OLYMPIC BUS: 3 weeks holiday in Greece...

LOWEST AIR FARES: Buckingham Travels Ltd...

FRANCE, FAR EAST, JAPAN: Ausair Travels Ltd...

FRUITS PERSEPOLIS: A day of fun and excitement...

FRANCE, FAR EAST, JAPAN: Ausair Travels Ltd...

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RENTALS: HAINES/STEARNS. Great position...

APPOINTMENTS: TRAINER RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT...

RENTALS: NEW CAVENDISH STREET...

RENTALS: HENRY & JAMES Contact us now...

RENTALS: CHELSEA, Basement/Office Flat...

RENTALS: GROSVENOR SQUARE - Luxury 3...

RENTALS: REMBRANDT CLOSE, SW1 CHARNOY...

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS: Consumer Advisor

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS: ASSISTANT SOLICITOR

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS: Durrant Piesse Commercial Litigation

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS: LEGAL - BANKING

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS: LITIGATION

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS: TRUST/TAX PLANNING

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS: LITIGATION

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS: BOOKKEEPER/MANAGER/DANCER???

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS: TWO LEGAL SECRETARIES

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS: CREATIVE SECS

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS: THE GROSVENOR BUREAU

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS: La crème de la crème

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS: SALES SEC/P.A. c. £8,200 CITY

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Britain's biggest killer is heart disease. Help us to fight it.

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST CANCER. The Cancer Research Campaign is the largest supporter in the UK...

HARPERS & QUEEN. WANTED: TEARABLE TALENT. In August 1978 we published an issue of H.Q. called 'Wanted'...

SKI SUPERTRAVEL. We still have a good selection of ski holiday packages...

Glendinings. Specialists in the Sale by Auction of Coins and Medals. 7, Theobalds Street, New Bond Street, W1P 9LJ

WINE AND DINE. CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS. THE GARGLE OF St James's...

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS. SOUTH WEST LONDON SOLICITORS. Require Assistant solicitor 1/2 years work involving general litigation...

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS. ASSISTANT SOLICITOR. Required immediately for Commercial and Litigation work...

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS. BEE PROFESSIONAL. URGENTLY REQUIRES, for a commercial post in London, a SOLICITOR experienced in drafting contracts and litigation...

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS. LONDON, NW6. Solicitor urgently required for residential and commercial conveyancing...

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS. COMPANY LAW. Jordans, the company and information services group, are seeking to recruit a newly admitted Solicitor for their London Office...

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS. COMPANY LAW. The post encompasses a varied range of work including company law matters, in house courses, promotional activities and involvement in the development of new services and products...



Voucher scheme rejected in Tory report

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The specialist group set up to produce education policy proposals for the Conservative election manifesto has rejected the idea of an education voucher scheme...

In findings that will disappoint and embarrass Sir Keith, the 12-member group has concluded that even an experimental voucher scheme...

Sir Keith, who has admitted to finding the voucher idea "intellectually attractive", told the Tory Party Conference last year that a properly constructed scheme could extend choice...

Since then Sir Keith, in collaboration with Sir Geoffrey and Mr Ferdinand Mount, head of the Prime Minister's policy unit, has put forward a scheme to the family policy group...

He said in the Commons in February that informal discussions were being held with local authorities about pilot schemes, although he has emphasized that no final government decision has been taken...

It was chaired by Lord Beloff and composed of academics, representatives, educationalists and four MPs - Sir William van Straubenzee, a former education minister (Wokingham), Mr Harry Greenway (Ealing, North), Mr James Pawsey

Report details, page 2



Far from the throngs of the jet age

The stiffness of fells, forest, lake and shore was caught by the tele-photo lens of Brian Harris, our photographer, yesterday as a hot-air balloon drifted delicately above the waters of Windermere...

Germans, young and old, march against the bomb

From Michael Binyon, Cologne

They came here in their thousands, converging on the vast central square from all points around the city and milling about beneath a sea of flags, banners and placards...

ON PAGE 6

Moscow's rejection of the Reagan 'incentive proposal' will not be softened; it is considering ways of hitting back at the new Nato missiles...

seemed to think the occasion an extension of February's official carnival as he had made up his face like a cat - no one could miss the message. Hundreds of banners denounced the deployment of Nato missiles...

20 hurt and 33 arrested as football fans riot

From Our Correspondent, Manchester

Twenty people, five of them policemen, were taken to hospital at Blackburn yesterday when a second-division football match turned into a riot. Police made 33 arrests.

The game was stopped for 16 minutes as fans climbed on to a stand at Ewood Park, the home of Blackburn Rovers, and hurled lumps of asbestos sheeting on to the terracing.

They ignored pleas from Frank Casper, manager of the visiting Burnley team, who told rioters over the public address system: "You are a disgrace to Burnley Football Club and we don't want to see you at Turf Moor any more."

A crowd of 13,431 were watching the game when trouble suddenly broke out. A smoke bomb was tossed on to the pitch...

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New Exhibitions: A Dig into the Past: work by Development Corporation archaeologists in Milton Keynes. Central Library, Milton Keynes, from Wed 9 to 6, Thurs and Fri 9 to 8, Sat 9 to 5 (until April 30).

Last chance to see Cadbury's National Exhibition of Children's Art Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens Belfast, Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 1 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends today).

Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, 1.05. International Piano Series performance by Willem Van Smerendonck...

New books - paperback: The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published last week. Authority, Power and Policy in the USSR, edited by T.H. Rigby...

Weather forecast: A depression over Scotland will move slowly SE as a trough of low pressure moves near England. 6 am to midnight.



The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,095. A grid with numbers 1-27 indicating starting points for words. Includes 'ACROSS' and 'DOWN' clues.

Wales and West A4042: Delays S of junction 26 of M4, Newport, Gwent. M5: Northbound exit sliproad closed at junction 25 (Traunton) M5 Lane closures between junctions 27 and 28, near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

Charity bike ride: Registration starts today for the London to Brighton Bike Ride in aid of the British Heart Foundation which takes place on Sunday, June 26.

Roads: London and South-East: Old Bond Street, City of London, one way southbound from 'Wormwood'...

UDR appeal: An appeal has been set up to help widows and dependants of part-time Ulster Defence Regiment soldiers killed or injured in Northern Ireland.

The pound: Bank Bank Bank. Australia \$ 1.51 1.46. Belgium Fr 74.75 70.75. Canada \$ 1.86 1.79.

Ferry disruption: Cross-Channel ferries to and from Folkestone could be disrupted today because of industrial action by French seamen.

High tides table. Columns: Location, AM, HT, PM, HT. Locations include London Bridge, Avonmouth, Belfast, etc.

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 8. A smaller crossword puzzle with clues and a grid.

Anniversaries: Births: Thomas Hobbes, philosopher, Westport, Wiltshire, 1588. Jean-Honoré Fragonard, painter, Grasse, France, 1732.

The papers: "The days when the Royal Navy press-ganged men into service as sailors are long gone, but what happened to the troopship Korea is a modern equivalent," says the Daily Mirror.

Stamp prices: The price of a basic first-class stamp rises today from 15p to 16p. The price of a second-class stamp remains unchanged at 12p.

London: Yesterday's Top: 7 am to 7 pm, 100 (50p) 7 pm to 7 am, 22 (50p). 7 am, 87 per cent. Rain: 2.5 to 7 pm, 0.16 in. Sun: 7 pm to 7 am, 4.1 in. Sea: mean sea level, 7 pm, 99.8 mbar, steady.

Abroad table. Columns: Country, C, F, M, S, R, etc. Countries include Albania, Algeria, Argentina, etc.

Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom left of the page.

Best wines: In blind tastings of 75 bag-in-box wines, two stood out as the best: White - Domaine de Goussard Vin de Pays de l'Herault; 77.95 for 3 litres. Hynard Hughes, Ltd of Leicester, Addiscombe of Newport and Dakins, London, EC1.

Stamp prices: The price of a basic first-class stamp rises today from 15p to 16p. The price of a second-class stamp remains unchanged at 12p.

Highest and lowest: Yesterday's Highest day time: Toronto, Quebec, 11.5; lowest day time: Cape Horn, 3C (77); highest night: Ljubljana, 0.5; lowest night: Cologne, 9.8.

Abroad table. Columns: Country, C, F, M, S, R, etc. Countries include Albania, Algeria, Argentina, etc.